



# THE TIMES

No 64,017

MONDAY MAY 13 1991

40p

## Hint of London summit in July

# Bush stops slide in relations with Gorbachev

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush had a 45-minute telephone call with President Gorbachev at the weekend in an attempt to reverse the recent deterioration in the relationship between the two superpowers. Mr Bush said yesterday that they had "ironed out a few difficulties".

Although no date was fixed for the long-delayed Moscow summit, Soviet officials hinted that the meeting could be held in London in July, if Mr Bush continues to object to visiting Moscow. The conversation between the two leaders followed Mr Gorbachev's warning last week that a new cold war could begin if the United States withdrew its support.

Mr Bush's telephone call, coming after a week in which he had criticised the Soviet leader's "enormous" accomplishments, was seen here as another sign that he had decided to resume his support for the beleaguered Soviet leader. The president received

the leaders of the three secessionist Baltic republics on Wednesday and it was disclosed that they had been asked to find a way of achieving independence in a way that would let Moscow save face.

Mr Bush offered at the weekend to send a team of agricultural experts to Moscow to help to solve the Soviet Union's worsening food distribution problems, and Mr Gorbachev accepted the proposal. The team will leave for the Soviet Union on Friday. Mr Gorbachev, meanwhile, is sending his top general to Washington this week to try to resolve a long-standing dispute over Moscow's implementation of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which was signed last November. The dispute over the treaty has soured relations and prompted the United States to stall on the Moscow summit that Mr Gorbachev badly wants to bolster his domestic standing.

While a White House spokesman portrayed the two leaders' conversation as "a positive and wide-ranging discussion of US-Soviet relations" in which both sides agreed that relations "remain good", there has been considerable strain on the relationship in recent months in spite of Soviet co-operation during the Gulf war. In January, the United States condemned the Soviet suppression of ethnic conflict in the Baltic republics. The Moscow superpower summit was scheduled to be held in February but was postponed, largely because of Mr Gorbachev's apparent drift towards authoritarianism and continuing disputes over two arms control treaties.

The United States has been forging links with opposition leaders, and Mr Bush recently indicated that he would reject Mr Gorbachev's appeal for a further \$1.5 billion (£882 million) in food credits. It was those developments that appear to have prompted Mr Gorbachev's warning about the cold war.

The summit is supposed to be held before the end of June. American officials see the

main stumbling block as Moscow's violations of the spirit, if not the letter, of the CFE treaty and its imposition of last-minute obstacles to the Start treaty cutting each side's strategic nuclear arsenals. Mr Gorbachev has responded to the American protests by deciding to send General Mikhail Moiseyev, the Soviet chief of staff, to Washington to try to break the deadlock over the conventional forces treaty.

Soviet officials hinted at the weekend that the superpower summit could be held in London to coincide with the G7 economic summit. The British are consulting allies on whether to invite Mr Gorbachev to attend the G7 meeting as an observer, a course of action envisaged at the last such meeting in Houston, Texas.

American officials said that Mr Gorbachev, who is beset by economic problems, hinted to Mr Bush that he was keen to attend, and Sergei Grigoriev, a Soviet presidential spokesman, told *The Washington Post* that Mr Gorbachev might be prepared to hold the summit in London. Mr Grigoriev said the summit could take place before or after the G7 meeting, provided the change of venue was "explained well by the American side".

Richard Durt, until recently the chief American strategic arms negotiator, yesterday urged the West to give Mr Gorbachev help. He said the Soviet leader was making a final effort to bring about reform through his recent agreement with Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation. If that effort failed, Mr Gorbachev would become "the creature of the military and the KGB" and the violent disintegration of the Soviet Union, civil war, a military takeover and massive migration into eastern Europe could ensue.

Mr Bush's reluctance to grant Mr Gorbachev's appeal for more agricultural credits appears to stem from genuine doubts about Soviet creditworthiness and whether aid might aggravate food distribution problems and impede the progress of market-orientated reform.

## US and Kremlin in Cairo peace talks

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WASHINGTON and Moscow joined forces last night in a last-ditch effort to overcome obstacles to a Middle East regional peace conference, when James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, met for talks in Cairo.

Mr Baker arrived directly from Damascus, where he spent six hours in talks with President Assad, running beyond their scheduled time. Mr Bessmertnykh said before the talks that there was hope and a chance for peace.

Over the weekend, Mr Baker's initiative was given a boost when the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council, which includes Saudi Arabia, agreed to send an observer to the opening of Arab-Israeli

peace talks and to deal directly with Israel on secondary, regional issues.

President Bush called the decision "very, very encouraging". He said it was too early to gauge progress to any possible breakthrough. He had discussed the Middle East in a 45-minute telephone call with President Gorbachev.

Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's prime minister, said at the weekend that Israel would not give up any portion of its land. Officials dismissed the Saudi move as making "no tangible contribution to the peace process" because the Gulf states maintained a state of war with Israel. Israel needed participants, not observers, the officials said.

Pressure on Israel, page 9



Enmeshed in crime: a young boy at a centre for delinquents in Warsaw. A juvenile crime wave is sweeping Poland as a lack of money will force the closure of 60 per cent of the country's kindergartens by the end of the year

## Fagin's Polish kitchen opens for business

The end of a controlled society in Poland has created a chaotic democracy and a juvenile crime wave, Roger Bayes reports

At the end of the corridor in Zoliborz police station, a prisoner was being interrogated. He was sitting on a wooden chair and his legs barely touched the ground. Wojtek, an experienced burglar who admits to at least five "previous jobs" is nine years old. This time, he has been pulled in for smashing a car window to steal a radio and then breaking into a food shop where he stuffed two dozen Mars bars into his anorak.

"Why did you do it?" The inspector's voice is gentle, genuinely baffled.

"Don't know, do I?" "Where are your parents?" "Don't know. Maybe working."

After a while the policemen give up and drive him home. His uncle is there, half drunk at 11am and he signs the bottom of the police form: "I acknowledge the receipt of my nephew." Case closed.

A juvenile crime wave has struck Poland and sociologists and educationists are worried about this new by-product of the move from a sterile socialist society to an open, but often chaotic, democracy. There were always young criminals, of course, but the latest offenders are nine- and ten-year-olds, recruits from Fagin's kitchen.

At a recent press conference at Warsaw police headquarters, an officer told of a girl on his beat who had killed a school-friend, stuffed the body behind a dustbin and then hurried back home to watch the evening children's programme. There was still blood on her dress.

Something is going badly wrong. Three eight-year-olds - Bartek, Olek and Jas - confessed that they broke into a Warsaw supermarket several times this year. Bartek recounted the last break-in to the police.

First, the three boys strolled around the shop during normal opening hours to pinpoint what they

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## Atomic agency taken to court

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Atomic Energy Authority is to be prosecuted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution over a leak of radioactive tritium gas in what will be seen as the first public demonstration of the watchdog's teeth. The gas escaped into the atmosphere when thousands of luminous telephone dials were mistakenly shredded at the Harwell nuclear research establishment in Oxfordshire.

The authority has been charged under section 13 of the Radioactive Substances Act, 1960, with two counts of failing to use the best practicable means to prevent the discharge into the air of radioactive gases, mists and dusts. The case is due for hearing at Wantage magistrates' court on June 5.

The case concerns two consignments of 30,000 dials from old Triumphos, scrapped in the 1970s. The luminous dials, activated by a small vial of tritium, were sent to Harwell for disposal as waste, but last July instead of being placed in a special store were put through a mechanical shredder, releasing the tritium into the atmosphere.

At the weekend the atomic authority, which confirmed that the shredding had happened, said there had been no danger to the public. A spokesman declined to say how the authority would plead.

Whatever the outcome of the case, it will prove embarrassing to the authority and possibly, to the government, as it will again focus attention on Britain's policies for disposal of radioactive waste. The prosecution has been sanctioned, as one of his first acts, by the inspectorate's new head, David Slater, who took over on May 1, although proceedings were initiated by Dr Slater's predecessor, Frank Feates, and by the pollution inspector directly responsible, Brian Frith.

Five-year mission, page 2

## EMU dispute ended by Delors concession

By WOLFGANG MÜCHAU IN LUXEMBOURG AND PHILIP WEBSTER IN LONDON

BRITAIN'S long-running dispute with the rest of the European community over monetary union is all but over after an informal meeting of European finance ministers in Luxembourg.

Britain's agreement to a treaty on European Monetary Union is now only a problem of finding "a form of words which will meet our concerns as well as the aspirations of our partners", according to one British official.

The breakthrough came after a U-turn by the European Commission in its policy towards Britain. Jacques Delors, the EC Commission president, conceded for the first time that Britain need not commit itself to a single currency at this stage.

M Delors proposed a special clause in the form of a footnote to the treaty on monetary union, which would allow Britain to sign on the understanding that a future

British parliament could delay or veto the implementation of a single European currency.

M Delors said this was motivated by "full respect for British traditions", and added that the European community never had plans to impose a single currency on Britain.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, said: "We have always believed we can reach agreement. We have always had a constructive view. M Delors has always been constructive." He added that European monetary union was no longer "a British problem".

Under M Delors's proposals Britain can sign the treaty on the understanding that a future parliament could still block the introduction of a single currency. This would meet British concerns over the sovereignty of Parliament, although there is a firm belief by the commission that the Commons would not object once faced with a decision. There were no signs of opposition among finance ministers for such a solution.

The Delors compromise was greeted with caution in Whitehall and suspicion by Conservative Euro sceptics. There was no immediate response from John Major, who spent the weekend in his constituency, and Whitehall sources said the proposal was "only one of a number of ideas on this subject".

William Cash, chairman of the Tory backbench European committee, warned that once Britain had signed a new treaty it would be unable to use its power of veto to block other



Delors: "full respect for British traditions"

## Zulu attack kills 25

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CONSTITUTIONAL talks in South Africa were on the verge of collapse after the killing yesterday of at least 25 people when up to 1,000 Zulus attacked a Xhosa squatter camp near Krugersdorp, and white farmers denounced police for shooting at whites attacking black squatters elsewhere in the Transvaal.

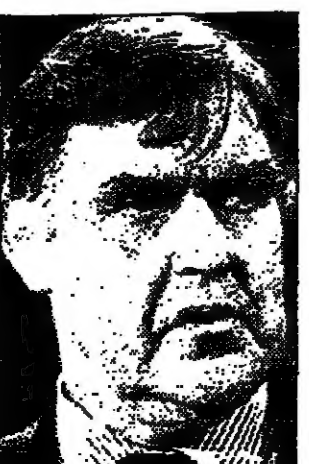
President de Klerk is due to

meet Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the leader of the Zulu homeland and Inkatha, this week to try to persuade him to accept the ban on the carrying of spears by Zulus, wearing Inkatha insignia and carrying spears, launched the attack on the camp before dawn.

Zulu raid, page 11

## Ingham goes on-the-record with a vengeance

By MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT



Sir Bernard: confirmed newspaper disclosures

SIR Bernard Ingham, famed for his blunt but off-the-record briefings to lobby journalists during his 11 years as Mrs Thatcher's fiercely loyal press secretary, ironically spent most of yesterday very much on-the-record, telling interviewers more about what is not in his censored memoirs than what is in them.

Had it not been for his publishers, HarperCollins, who sent *The Sunday Times* a copy of the book before the Cabinet Office had a chance to take scissors to its own copy, Sir Bernard may not have been so forthcoming.

By comparing the pre-publication copy of *Kill The Messenger* with the censored copy, *The Sunday Times*, which had bought the serialisation rights, was able to discover which passages had been censored. Sir Bernard, who on

Saturday refused to comment to *The Sunday Times* about the uncensored copy, yesterday confirmed the newspaper's disclosures when interviewed by David Frost on TV-am's *Frost on Sunday*. Sir Bernard went on to further fuel the controversy by blaming Nigel Lawson, the former chancellor, for leaving Mrs Thatcher "potentially vulnerable" as a result of his handling of the economy.

In the uncensored version of his memoirs, Sir Bernard says that he was falsely accused of organising the leak to undermine Michael Heseltine, now environment secretary, during the 1986 Westland affair, instead claiming that Sir Leon Brittan, then trade and industry secretary, authorised the leak. Sir Bernard also wrote that Mr Heseltine was not fit for high office.

Even if it wished to, the Cabinet

Office, which examines all ministerial and civil service memoirs to protect future relations between MPs and civil servants, cannot shoot the messenger who passed on the uncensored *Kill The Messenger* to the newspaper. "The government regards it as regrettable that *The Sunday Times* had access to both versions," a Cabinet Office spokesman said. "But nothing can be done about it."

He said that the Radcliffe guidelines, the rules governing what civil servants may disclose about their relationships with ministers, had "no teeth" as they were not backed up by any legislation. "It is advisory and done by request," Bernard abided by all the guidelines.

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## APPEAL FOR BANGLADESH

Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by the cyclone in Bangladesh.

International Refugee Year Trust is standing by to help the victims - but we cannot do anything without your help.

Please send whatever you can NOW.

My donation for Bangladesh is:

£100 £50 £25 Other: £

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Postal Order ☐

Please charge my \_\_\_\_\_

Access ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐

Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: / / Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(credit cards only)

Please send me more information about your work

Return to: International Refugee Year Trust, 29 City Business Centre, Lower Road, London, SE16 2XB.

TT 13/05/91 Registered Charity No. 802450

## TODAY IN THE TIMES

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Pope John Paul II was the victim, ten years ago, of an East European conspiracy that still exists, despite glasnost Page 10

### PEOPLE



Maria Montessori, if and when she marries Donald Trump, will have to do her homework on how to be an executive wife Page 12

### POLITICS



Joe Haines finds that Sir Bernard Ingham, once the press secretary to Margaret Thatcher, is behaving like "a penitent JCB" Page 14

### INSIDE

## Athletics hope

South Africa may return to international athletics in time for the world championships at Tokyo in August, says a delegation from the International Amateur Athletic Federation. Page 40

## Hunt continues

Fifty detectives are continuing to hunt for a mentally handicapped woman who went missing from a seaside town a month ago. Page 3

## Housing move

The environment department is urging local planning authorities to release land on the edges of villages for low-cost housing. Page 5

## Rebels vote

Croatia's rebel Serbian area of Krajina went to the polls with voters being asked whether their region should become part of Serbia. Page 10

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# Five-year mission to turn factories into friends of the Earth



Slater: "We think it's going to save money"

A QUIETLY-SPOKEN chemical engineer is about to push through the environmental transformation of all the most polluting heavy industry in England and Wales.

David Slater has taken over as head of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution as it begins to introduce the new system of integrated pollution control, brought in by the 1990 Environmental Protection Act. The new system means drawing up new individual operating licences for five thousand industrial plants. The new licences will for the

first time force each plant to use the best technology to minimise its pollution, which for any company may mean millions of pounds of new expenditure, although excessive cost will be avoided. Dr Slater, aged 50, who for the past five years has been running a chemical engineering consultancy in the United States, and was chosen for the post by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, will be a crucial figure for industry as the man who ultimately decides what technology is best, and what cost is excessive.

A new system of pollution control has been introduced to clean up the dirtiest industries of England and Wales. Michael McCarthy meets the man charged with making it work

On the question of cost, he said: "We think it's going to save industry money. Firms are going to find that the best environmental options are the most profitable options."

What if new expenditure on environmental improvements were so heavy that a company was

forced into bankruptcy? "If the installation of clean-up technology is sufficient to put that company out of business, it's not really a profitable or healthy company in the first place, and likely to go bust anyway," he said. "We are conscious of practicalities, and we can be flexible, but at the end of the

day the name of the game is 'Clean up'." The new system will require factories to look at all their polluting emissions, to air, water and land, together and work out the best way of dealing with them. "Rather than coping with the pollution after it has occurred, it will often mean redesigning the industrial process," he said. "The problem out of it," he said. Dr Slater has set himself a five-year target to bring all the 5,000 big polluting plants into the system, by which time England and Wales

are likely to have the most systematic and comprehensive environmental regulation of heavy industry anywhere in the world. A similar system will be brought in separately for Scotland. Dr Slater admits that it is a massive task, and not possible with the inspectorate's present complement of 248, but this is likely to be increased to 400 or more. Michael Heseltine, he says, has promised all the resources the inspectorate needs.

Watching bites, page 1

## Howard lays claim to true Toryism

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE struggle over the ideological direction of the Conservative party will take a fresh turn this week when Michael Howard, the employment secretary, asserts that Thatcherism has not been abandoned and is being carried forward by John Major.

Mr Howard's intervention is intended to position him on the Thatcherite wing of the cabinet, but as someone completely loyal to Mr Major. His argument is that there is absolutely no contradiction between the two positions. In a Conservative Political Centre pamphlet, Mr Howard is to argue: "We are proud of the achievements of the 1980s. They will not be forgotten or buried or reversed. We must continue to be the party of radical change."

In a remark that will particularly please Mrs Thatcher's many remaining admirers on the Conservative benches in the Commons, Mr Howard will add: "We must show as much courage and determination in the pursuit of radical reform in the 1990s as we did in the 1980s."

Mr Howard's move will delight Thatcherite MPs fearful that their voice is going unheard in the cabinet and that the left, headed by Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, is making the running in the ideological battle. His friends make plain that his action is no criticism of Mr Major, in whose election campaign he was prominent. Indeed, Mr Howard believes that Thatcherite groups that have suggested that there is some contradiction between "Majorism" and Thatcherism are harming their cause. Mr Howard's pamphlet will call for extension of competitive tendering in the public sector. It was made authoritatively clear yesterday that Mrs Thatcher has still to decide whether to stand at the next general election. She will set off this week to visit South Africa and the Soviet Union.

## Economy was key to Thatcher's defeat, Ingham says

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Bernard Ingham yesterday singled out Nigel Lawson's handling of the economy as the main factor that had left Margaret Thatcher "potentially vulnerable" and open to a leadership challenge.

Asked about the main factors that had damaged Mrs Thatcher, Sir Bernard said on TV-am's *Sunday* programme that it had all gone back to the economy. "I think the eye was taken off the inflation and I think Mrs Thatcher did indulge her chancellor. I make the point that she was a very indulgent prime minister."

The former Downing Street press secretary also revived the Westland affair with an

outright denial of the assertion by Sir Leon Brittan that Downing Street had given express approval for the leaking of a letter designed to undermine Michael Heseltine's position. He conceded that "at best" it could have been argued that tacit approval had been given.

He attacked Mr Heseltine saying that his obsession during Westland made him unfit ever to be prime minister but expressed regret that he criticised the former ministers John Biffen and Francis Pym at unattributable briefings.

The most sensitive parts of Sir Bernard's memoirs of his 11-year stint in charge of Mrs Thatcher's press relations were censored by the Cabinet

Office, it was disclosed yesterday.

But much of the uncensored material was published by *The Sunday Times* and Sir Bernard was questioned about it in a series of interviews.

The book *Kill the Messenger* tells of his reaction when told by Colette Bowe, a DTI press official, that she had been given ministerial permission - Sir Leon was secretary of state at the time - to leak a letter from the Solicitor General Sir Patrick Mayhew drawing attention to "material inaccuracies" in Mr Heseltine's campaign for a European consortium to take over Westland.

He said his eyebrows shot up when Ms Bowe told him she had been given ministerial permission to leak the letter. "Leaving aside ministerial approval, I expressed grave reservations about the plan."

"I was told the news needed to be in the public domain before a Westland press conference at 4 pm. Bowe made it clear to me that the DTI hoped that No 10 - namely myself - would do the leaking."

"I refused to do so point blank. I had no authority to disclose the Solicitor General's letter. I told Bowe that I had to keep the Prime Minister above that sort of thing."

In Bunkum and Balderdash, a portrait of Sir Bernard on BBC 2 last night Sir Bernard said: "We did not give express approval. The best that can be said is that since we did not object the approval was tacit."

Sir Leon was reluctant to be drawn too far back into the Westland affair yesterday but said when told of Sir Bernard's version of events: "He has said this before. He would say that, wouldn't he?"

Sir Bernard told David Frost that Mr Heseltine was at loggerheads with his Cabinet colleagues and went to extraordinary lengths to demonstrate it. "He decided he was not going to be bound by collective responsibility. I didn't think it displayed good judgment at all."

Mr Frost asked: "After the Westland affair, did you cease to view him as a future prime minister?" Sir Bernard replied: "Yes. I don't think you carry on like that. I don't think that is what prime minister material is."

In the book, Sir Bernard said: "Mrs Thatcher never once asked - let alone instructed - me to criticise a ministerial colleague in my dealings with journalists." This was a reference to his description of John Biffen as a "semi-detached member of the Cabinet" and his comparison of Francis Pym with the ITMA radio character, Mona Lot.



Sir Norman: Thatcher erred in going to Paris

approached to run John Major's campaign in the second round but declined because he intended to vote for Michael Heseltine, argues that Mrs Thatcher could have won victory in the second round.

Sir Norman also discloses how his threat early in 1986 as a Midlands MP to resign from the cabinet if the American firm General Motors was allowed to take over British Leyland's commercial vehicle interests, including Land Rover, succeeded in getting the deal called off.

Sir Norman, MP for Sutton Coldfield, a constituency dependent on motor industry jobs, first learnt of the possible takeover of British Leyland by Ford from a newspaper. He raised the issue at Cabinet and won an assurance from Mrs Thatcher that in future Cabinet ministers with constituency, regional or departmental interests would be kept informed of such decisions.

When he learnt on March 18 from disclosures in *The Times* of a compromise plan for General Motors to be given 49 per cent of British Leyland's commercial vehicle operations, Mr Fowler objected and the deal was called off.

Ministers Decide, a personal memoir of the Thatcher years (Chapmans £18)

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Leading article, page 15

## Fowler gives his leadership verdict

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

PERSONAL failure to get involved in the campaign and a lack of the human touch lost Margaret Thatcher the Conservative leadership election last November, according to Sir Norman Fowler, one of her most prominent supporters.

In his political memoirs *Ministers Decide*, published today, Sir Norman, one of the longest-serving cabinet ministers during her leadership, says that Mrs Thatcher made a crucial error in going to the CSCE conference in Paris for the last two days of the campaign.

He says too that by deciding not to campaign personally she discarded the most potent weapon at her disposal. It is difficult, says Sir Norman, to run a campaign without the presence of the candidate.

The former employment secretary, who says he was



Tight rein: the Duke of Edinburgh driving a team of fells in the team of ponies section of the Harrods international driving grand prix at the Windsor Horse Show

## Salmon fishermen give up quarry for £1.2m payment

By DAVID YOUNG

COMMERCIAL salmon fishermen in the Faeroes are to accept £1.2 million compensation to give up their traditional quarry and allow more salmon to return to the rivers of Scotland and other northern European countries.

Orri Vigfusson, an Icelandic businessman, who is the architect of the agreement to be signed next week, is now negotiating with anglers groups in the United States for financial assistance to meet the compensation payments.

The Icelandic and Norwegian governments have said that they will contribute, as will anglers groups in Scotland, the Irish Republic, Denmark and West Germany. Owners of salmon fishing rights on Scottish rivers have already bought out the commercial fishermen quotas in their own areas, but Mr Vigfusson's initiative means that the entire fleet of 26 Faeroese salmon boats will switch to mackerel fishing, with substantial compensation payments going to each boat owner.

The new agreement comes at a time when the Faeroes have been hit by an increase in farmed salmon reaching the markets and depressing the price of their fish. Mr Vigfusson said: "We will now start to negotiate with Greenland salmon fishing

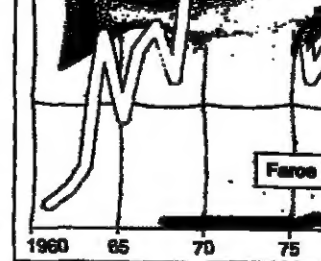
quota holders, although it is unlikely we will ever be able to buy out their entire quotas."

Mr Halldor Asgrímsson, Iceland's fisheries minister, said: "The Atlantic salmon is unquestionably the world's most valued sport fishing species. Unfortunately, local stocks in most rivers have dwindled because of ocean fishing, marine pollution, river pollution, genetic pollution and, in some cases, by over-exploitation in rivers."

He added: "Of the detrimental factors, open-sea fishing is one of the most damaging and relatively easy to regulate. The Atlantic salmon is a prime example of a common natural resource which needs to be managed internationally."

The agreement is a remarkable reconciliation between two opposing groups and means that an estimated 120,000 more wild salmon will find their way up to the spawning grounds of Scotland and Ireland's rivers next spring.

The largest brown trout caught in Britain, weighing 20lb 2.4oz, has been caught at the Dever Springs fishery, Hampshire, by John Gardner, aged 27, who took up fly fishing just a year ago. The previous brown trout record was 19lb 3oz for a wild fish caught 13 years ago on Loch Quoich, Highland.



## Great Mustard Club Mystery Investigation provokes outburst.

REBUKES IVOR STOREY

FOLLOWING the revelations by investigative reporter Ivor Storey in this paper, Colonel Mustard MC, Hon. Sec. of the Mustard Club, has sent the following letter to the Editor. We feel it is our duty to publish it in full.

Sir, The scurrilous articles in your newspaper concerning the honourable institution of the Mustard Club and the motives of its members, demand an answer.

The devoted members of the Mustard Club are determined to make every effort to ensure that a great English institution will continue to be passed on generation to generation.

To this end, they have bound themselves by strict rules which they are pledged to uphold and which I now lay before the people of this country.

### Rules of the Mustard Club

- Members shall enhance all meals with liberal dollops of the official mustard. Limitations will be instantly refused or discarded.
- Members will first identify themselves to fellow members with the secret password PTMC. If there is no response, a further test is allowed by moving the mustard pot meaningfully within their reach.
- Sandwiches, hot dogs and other such consumables will be examined for the presence of the official mustard. If missing, and consumables will be returned with unbecoming contempt.
- Restaurants, cafes and like establishments that fail to provide the official mustard will have



Colonel Mustard

Colonel Mustard MC

Hon. Sec. The Mustard Club of Great Britain

THOSE who believe that we inhabit a looking glass world, in which nothing is quite what it seems and everything appears to contradict itself, will be encouraged to learn that they may shortly be legally permitted to buy an electric drill or a chainsaw on a Sunday, but will be forbidden to use it.

At present, of course, the opposite holds good. The citizenry are entitled to disturb the peace of the Sabbath by hammering, drilling and sawing away to their heart's content but, if they venture to their local do-it-yourself store to buy a packet of screws or a replacement blade, both they and the store are technically in breach of the Shops Act.

Today, the House of Lords will be invited to rule once and for all on whether the restrictions on Sunday trading, which are widely flouted,

still have legal validity. But whatever their lordships may decide, the environment department has plans to frustrate DIY enthusiasts by issuing a new anti-noise code that would allow neighbours to take them to court for disturbing their weekend slumber.

The law lords will this morning begin hearing an appeal by the B&Q stores group against a High Court ruling last July that the Shops Act, which restricts the range of goods sold on Sundays, is still valid and enforceable. Lawyers will argue that the restrictions have been superseded by EC legislation.

The appeal is being contested by Norwich and Stoke-on-Trent councils, which are seeking injunctions to prevent Sunday trading by B & Q stores in their areas.

Clear so far? Well, not quite. Two weeks ago the Court of

Appeal muddled the waters somewhat by ruling that local authorities should not be granted injunctions against Sunday traders unless they were willing to compensate them for lost profits if the appeal were successful.

That left the councils faced with possible bills for millions and, not surprisingly, many stores opened the following Sunday. They will doubtless continue to do so until the law lords reach a verdict.

Meanwhile householders in the south London suburb of Forest Hill have received environment department leaflets containing guidelines on how to avoid disturbing their neighbours. All noisy DIY activity should cease after 9pm, it says, should not start before 10.30am on Saturdays and, if possible, should not be undertaken at all on Sundays. Other forms of noise are to

be similarly discouraged. Washing machines and vacuum cleaners should not be used late at night, record-players should be turned down by 11 pm, car doors should not be slammed or engines revved at night and children should be prevented from "jumping about on the floor in a way which disturbs people below", the leaflet advises.

The code, it suggests, should be enforced by "neighbourhood groups" which would reprimand noisy people and could take them to a magistrates' court, where they could be fined up to £2,000.

Tony Baldry, an environment minister, said that people were entitled to one day of quiet a week. The code may be extended country wide.

But what about one of the great Sunday traditions, moving the lawn? Mr Baldry said it was not the government's in-

tervention to follow Germany's example in banning the use of electric lawnmowers on Sundays. "People should be able to carry on normal activities in homes and gardens without causing a nuisance to others," he said. But how is a lawnmower more "normal" than an electric drill? Is it less noisy, and how do you differentiate? Another decision perhaps for their lordships.

## Soviet thanks

Eight Soviet children, victims of the Chernobyl disaster, went home yesterday after thanking doctors at Hammer-smith hospital in London, where they have been treated for radiation-related illnesses.

They were accompanied by their parents and a delegation of Soviet officials. The children, who were treated for radiation-related illnesses, were thanked by the hospital staff for their recovery.

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# 50 police still hunt for missing Down's Syndrome woman

By CRAIG SETON

A TEAM of 50 detectives is continuing to hunt for a mentally handicapped woman who went missing from a seaside town a month ago.

A nationwide search has so far failed to produce any new leads that could help to explain the disappearance from Bridport, Dorset, of Jo Ramsden, aged 21, who has Down's Syndrome. Police do not know whether she was abducted, left of her own free will or met with an accident.

Because she has a mental age of only ten, however, detectives and her parents, Dick and Angela Ramsden, aged 64 and 62 respectively, fear that she would be unable to survive by herself. Uppermost in the minds of Mr and Mrs Ramsden, who run a glass and china shop in Bridport, is their daughter's extreme vul-

erability because of her handicap. Their daughter was a familiar figure in Bridport. She attended an adult training centre and helped to set out equipment at a weekly tod-



Missing: Jo Ramsden, who is mentally handicapped

dlers' group at the town's leisure centre. She disappeared on April 9, after having her lunch at the adult training centre.

Jo was seen at about 2pm that afternoon holding the hand of a young man as she crossed a road in the town centre. That was not unusual, as she still needed help crossing the town's busy streets, although she was beginning to develop a degree of independence.

Two hours later, she was seen again in the town, this time alone, by a taxi driver. That was the last known sighting of her.

Meanwhile, Dorset police are treating her as a missing person. The town, nearby fields, coastal footpaths and cliffs have been searched, to no avail. Her parents remain hopeful that Jo is alive. Their daughter would meet them at their shop each day after finishing at the adult training centre or toddlers' club.

Mr Ramsden said: "We have not had any good news, but at the same time we have not had any bad news about Jo. Perhaps somebody who lost a child of their own has taken her. That is the best we hope for. We do not think about the other possibilities."

They said their daughter, who enjoyed swimming, horse-riding, reading and pop music, and supported Liverpool football club, knew nothing of malice and would not understand it in others.

Her parents were dismayed that her disappearance aroused relatively little interest in the national press and television, and suspect that the lack of interest was connected to Jo's mental handicap. Last week, the disappearance of their daughter was featured on the BBC television programme *Crime-watch*. It resulted in more than 150 calls.

Det Inspector Geoff Brazier, of Dorset police, said that the young man seen crossing the road with Jo had still not come forward and that the police needed to talk to him urgently.



Take a bow: Yukari Hara, aged eight, warming up before the start of a Mozart gala day at Hindhead School of Music in Hindhead, Surrey, yesterday. The event marked the launch of a charity to provide scholarships for needy and talented children to attend the school.

## Oxford tribute to murdered student

OXFORD university yesterday paid tribute to Rachel McLean, the student aged 19 found murdered beneath the floorboards of her lodgings 11 days ago.

The university church of St Mary was packed for a service of remembrance at which her "sparkle, intellect and imagination" were recalled by Dr Margot Stocker, one of her tutors at St Hilda's College. Among nearly 400 mourners were Rachel's parents Malcolm and Joan McLean, from Blackpool, with their sons David, aged 18, and Peter, aged 16. Also in the congregation were members of the Thames Valley police team who searched for the English student.

Miss Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, the principal of St Hilda's, said that Rachel was strikingly pretty, sometimes vivacious and sometimes serious, and someone you could never ignore. "She was someone who put more into life than she took out. She seemed

to have the makings of a genuine scholar and enjoyed her work."

Miss Llewellyn-Smith added: "Rachel was a lovely person who inspired affection." She concluded: "It is the quality of life that counts, not its length. Rachel's life had quality. In a short time she managed to change many things."

The vicar of the university church, the Rev Brian Mountford, chaplain to St Hilda's, said: "As we come together to remember Rachel we are bound to feel very mixed emotions - grief, sadness, anger perhaps, at the death of someone so young and in such circumstances. Yet at the same time the wish to celebrate the gift of her love and friendship and vitality."

Donations were accepted to a college fund which will commemorate her life. John Tanner, aged 22, a student at Nottingham university is in custody charged with Rachel's murder.

## Muscovites reject yet another tower block

By CHARLES KNEVITT  
ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

EVEN in Moscow, where state-controlled, system-built mass housing has had a virtual monopoly of the market for almost 40 years, the tower block is doomed.

When residents of the October district were told that another 16-storey "superblock" was to be added to the other 34 on their estate, housing 7,000 people, the response was "Niet". Instead, with the help of their newly elected councillors they have chosen the community architecture approach to the problems of

their bleak surroundings. For the next 10 days two informal advisers to the Prince of Wales, John Thompson, an architect, and Ros Tennyson, an "alternative" health, and other architects and builders from Britain and Berlin will join like-minded professionals from Moscow and residents of the October estate for a community planning week.

The estate straddles the Old Kaluga road, made famous by Napoleon, who arrived and left Moscow by that route. Until 40 years ago there was just a sprinkling of *dachas*, but that was before the bureaucratic housing machine designated the area

for development. Some residents live in less than 70 sq ft of space - the size of a small bedroom.

Mr Thompson leads the British team and has with him several staff from his north London practice. Recently, they have acted as community development consultants to the Duchy of Cornwall at Poundbury, near Dorchester, and have designed a £175 million scheme for Waltham Forest, where tower blocks will be demolished and replaced at the wish of local residents. Louanne Tranchesi, of Coin Street Community Builders, London, and Chris Ryle, of the Birmingham city archi-

tecs' department, complete the British contingent.

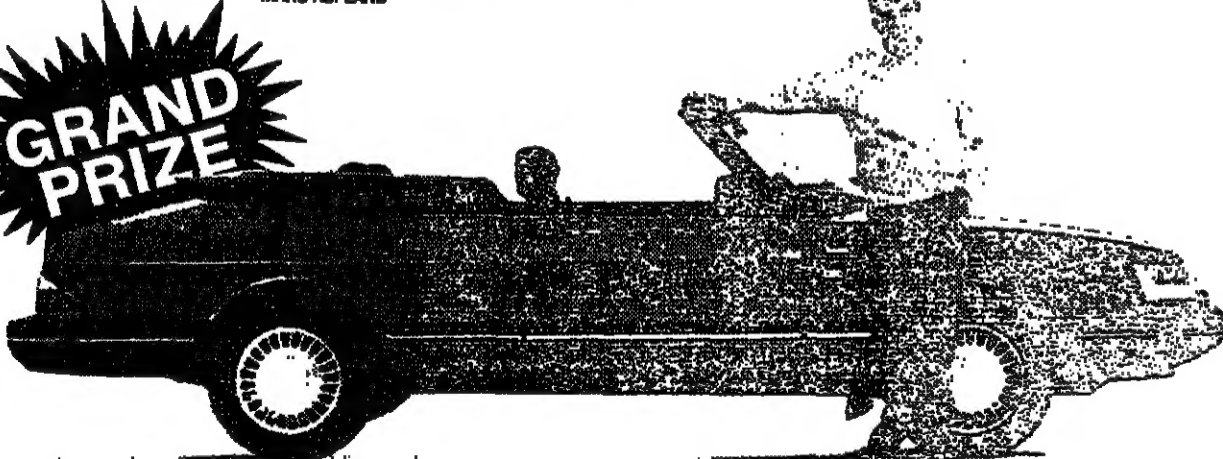
The Moscow project, called ECO-1 is the first international venture of the European Academy of the Urban Environment, founded two years ago by the Senate of Berlin to develop local urban initiatives. Mr Thompson, who is also vice-chairman of the Prince's Community Enterprise Scheme, sponsored by *The Times*, said yesterday: "It's going to be both a challenging and fascinating event to see how British and German experience relates to Moscow and the former Eastern Bloc for the first time."

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## AGENDA

The week ahead

**Today**  
Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, launches Christian Aid week. Christopher Chope, transport minister, launches rear seat-belts campaign. British Rail announces top chef of year. Princess of Wales attends premiere of film *LA Story*.

**Tomorrow**  
Mass lobby of Parliament for Palestinians' educational rights. RNLI presents bravery medals at Festival Hall. Princess Royal at launch of Diet Coke Great Runs.

**Wednesday**  
Publication of list of applications for ITV franchises. Vegetarian Society launches survey on attitudes to vegetarian food.

**Thursday**  
Monmouth by-election. Norma Major launches preschool project for disadvantaged children.

**Friday**  
Archbishop of Canterbury launches church urban fund-raising campaign.

**Saturday**  
Welsh Labour party annual conference, Llandudno. Launch of Juno mission Soyuz spacecraft. Princess of Wales at Serenade to a Princess concert in aid of English National Ballet and English Youth Opera.

**Sunday**  
Candlelight memorial for HIV and Aids victims.



Pilgrims praise: thousands of Christians gathered at Haddington in Lothian, Scotland, at the weekend for a service of healing. Anglicans, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox made the pilgrimage to St Mary's Kirk, where clergy pray to heal the sick and miracles appear to have been done. The Earl of Lauderdale, an episcopalian, inherited the desolate chapel in 1970 and restored the ancient altar. Thirty pilgrims visited the first year and since then numbers have swelled to thousands.

## The chicken and the EC

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HOW free range is a free-range chicken? After months of deliberation, the European Commission has come up with an official answer, or rather three answers, to this hotly debated question: there is free range, traditional free range and total free range.

The Brussels mandarins have devised the three-part definition to satisfy a commendable desire for a common standard throughout the European Community while at the same time, and more questionably, enabling all the main types of free-range chicken on the market to qualify.

Purists will argue that in trying to please everybody Brussels has stretched the

free-range concept unacceptably. Chickens labelled "free range" without qualification will actually be the least free range.

Although an EC legal definition of free range already exists for egg-laying hens, there has hitherto been no such standard for chickens raised for eating. The new regulations will make it possible to prosecute dishonest use of the label. Last year birds sold as free range accounted for 3 per cent of fresh chicken sales.

The debate turned mainly on the type of bird, the minimum age of slaughter and the stocking density that should be allowed in free range production. The free-range label specifies a mini-

mum slaughter age of 56 days, no more than 13 birds per square metre in the chicken-house and continuous daytime access for at least half the birds' lifetimes to open-air runs with at least one square metre per chicken.

Traditional free range will allow only 12 birds a square metre in the house. No poultry house must exceed 1,600 square metres in area or contain more than 4,800 chickens and the birds must not be slaughtered before 81 days. The open-air run must allow each chicken at least two square metres of space. Total free range is the same as traditional except that the open-air run must be of unlimited area.



## Liberal Democrat vote crucial in a tight fight

## How centre support affects the outcome of elections

By IVOR CREWE

THE mini-surge for the Liberal Democrats since the Ribbles Valley by-election, reflected in local election results, has provoked two contradictory reactions from Conservatives. In private, some welcome it as a return to the Eighties, when a buoyant centre split the anti-Tory vote and gave Mrs Thatcher handsome majorities. In public, Conservatives warn that voting Liberal Democrat "will let Labour in", citing Labour's narrow victories in 1964 and February 1974.

Talk of a Liberal Democrat revival is exaggerated. Support in the local elections (21-22 per cent) and the latest polls (18 per cent) remains below the Liberal/SDP's 23 per cent at the last election. Realistic forecasts put it between 12 and 24 per cent at the next election; it is more likely to fall than rise, against 1987.

The centre vote's impact depends on the interaction of three factors, of which size is the least important.

Assume the major parties enter the campaign level, that they benefit equally across the

country from a Liberal Democrat decline and that the national swing is uniform. The impact of the Liberal Democrat vote share on the Tory-Labour balance would be marginal. At 12 per cent, Labour would gain by two seats; the Liberal Democrats and SDP would lose six to Tories and eight to Labour. At 24 per cent, Labour benefits by slightly more: Liberal Democrats would gain nine from the Tories and lose two to Labour.

That, however, is on paper. Some Liberal Democrat MPs

would win on a personal vote; similarly, some of the Liberal Democrats' target seats, especially ones its MPs lost in 1987 (Cambridgeshire NE, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth South, and Stockton South) would probably elude them even on a national upswing.

The size of the Liberal Democrat vote matters less than a second factor: which major party benefits — and by how much — from defections to and from the centre? The sharper the centre's decline, and the more unevenly its

deserters split, the greater the impact in two-party marginals. If the centre vote fell to 12 per cent, the difference between a 4:1 and 1:4 Labour-to-Tory share would be a swing of 6.6 per cent, 80 seats.

Nothing approaching this is likely. In past elections, the swing from turnover in the centre vote has averaged less than 1 per cent (see table). The third factor is the relative standing of the Tory and Labour parties. With level-polling, as at present, a surge in the Liberal Democrat vote hurts the Tories more. First, it would deliver a few Tory marginals, such as Beth, to Liberal Democrats on the back of the national swing from Tory to Labour. Secondly, it would increase the margin of the popular vote — the Tories needed for an overall majority, from under 2 per cent, if the Liberal Democrat vote were 12 per cent, to over 4.5 per cent if it rose to 24 per cent. Only six of 13 post-war elections had national margins of 4.5 per cent or more.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at Essex university.

Impact of turnover of centre vote on two major parties

Election	% change in Lib (Lib/SDP) vote	Net swing between two main parties*
1984	+8.3	0.6 to Lab
1986	-2.6	0.4 to Cons
1970	-1.1	0.6 to Cons
1974 (Feb)	+11.8	0.5 to Cons
1974 (Oct)	-1.0	0.8 to Lab
1979	-4.5	1.3 to Cons
1983	+11.6	1.2 to Cons
1987	-2.9	0.6 to Lab

\*Net change arising from switches both directions between the Liberal Party (Lib/SDP) and each of the major parties.  
Source: The British Election Studies (panel sample 1984 to 1987)



Reaction falls: soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 52nd Lowland Volunteers, who this weekend have become the first women to take up guard duties at Edinburgh castle

## Brooke to offer venue solution

By DAVID YOUNG

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, is expected to make it clear today that he will offer a take-it-or-leave-it solution if the dispute over a venue for stage two of the multi-party talks on Ulster is not resolved, and suspend the talks if his offer is refused.

Negotiations between the nationalist SDLP, the Alliance party, and the Ulster and Democratic Unionist parties about an agreed form of devolution should have started last week. They were delayed by the dispute over the venue for the later talks with the Irish government.

The SDLP favours holding the stage two talks somewhere on the island or Ireland, but the Unionists want the meeting to be in London. The Unionists' position had been that they could not talk to the Dublin government in Ireland until the republic made a commitment to scrap its territorial claim to Ulster. Unionist leaders hinted at a compromise this weekend by saying that a "willingness" to withdraw the claim might lead to an agreement.

However, Gerry Collins, the Irish foreign minister, is thought to have made it clear to Mr Brooke that the republic will make no commitment about constitutional change in advance of meetings with the Unionists.

## Easing of jobless impact favours election delay

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ELECTORAL pressure on the government from rising unemployment may be easing, according to the latest jobless analysis by *The Times*, which shows that the sharp rise in unemployment in Conservative MPs' seats compared to those held by the Labour party has lessened significantly.

Tory party strategists are likely to see the considerable easing of the potential political pressure on Conservative seats from rising unemployment, and the prospect that it will ease still further later in the year, as more arguments in favour of delaying a general election.

The *Times*'s findings precede a further rise in unemployment that the government will announce this week. Unemployment figures for April, to be published on Thursday, will show a further increase in the number out of work, following the previous month's rise of 112,900 — the largest monthly increase on record — which took the seasonally adjusted total to more than two million.

This week's rise will show that unemployment has increased by more than half a million since starting to rise again in April last year. Labour party leaders will use the continued rise in unemployment to press home what they see as the political advantage gained from their sustained attack on the government over its health service reforms.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, campaigning in Chesham at the weekend, predicted a rise in unemployment this week, forecasting increases in the South-East, the East Midlands and the West Midlands.

Ministers have been privately worried about electoral effects of rising unemployment, since the number out of work will continue to increase after any upturn in the economy, which the government is forecasting for the second half of this year.

However, the considerable easing of the impact of rising unemployment on

Conservative-held constituencies, as suggested by *The Times*'s analysis of data held on employment department computers, is likely to be used by Tory party strategists as a further factor in calculating the most advantageous date for the next general election.

Earlier this year, in the first such analysis carried out, *The Times* found that unemployment was rising five times faster in Conservative seats than in Labour constituencies. Ministers denied the results, arguing that unemployment in most Conservative areas was still far lower than in Labour seats. Now, though, the latest computer analysis by *The Times* suggests that the electoral advantage to Labour of rising unemployment may well be easing.

The year-on-year increase in unemployment to last December showed it rising in Conservative seats by an average of 32.4 per cent — more than five times the figure for Labour constituencies of 6.4 per cent. However, while the year-on-year figure to March this year — the latest data available — shows a much larger rise in unemployment for all the parties as the recession has worsened, the gap between Conservative-held and Labour-held seats has narrowed considerably.

Over that period, unemployment in Conservative-held seats has risen by 65.2 per cent. Although this is more than twice the increase for overall UK unemployment, which rose by 30.1 per cent, it is now only three times the rate of the rise in Labour seats, of 19.8 per cent.

The change in Conservative party's electoral fortunes over unemployment is largely because of the spread of the recession from its origins in the South to other parts of the country. Seats in the key swing areas of the Midlands are now being hit almost equally by unemployment, with the average gap between Conservative and Labour seats now down to only a few percentage points.

## Don't vote Tory, farmers are urged

FARMERS and agricultural workers, who make up 20 per cent of the electorate in March, are being urged by the Farmers' Union of Wales not to vote Conservative in the by-election on Thursday.

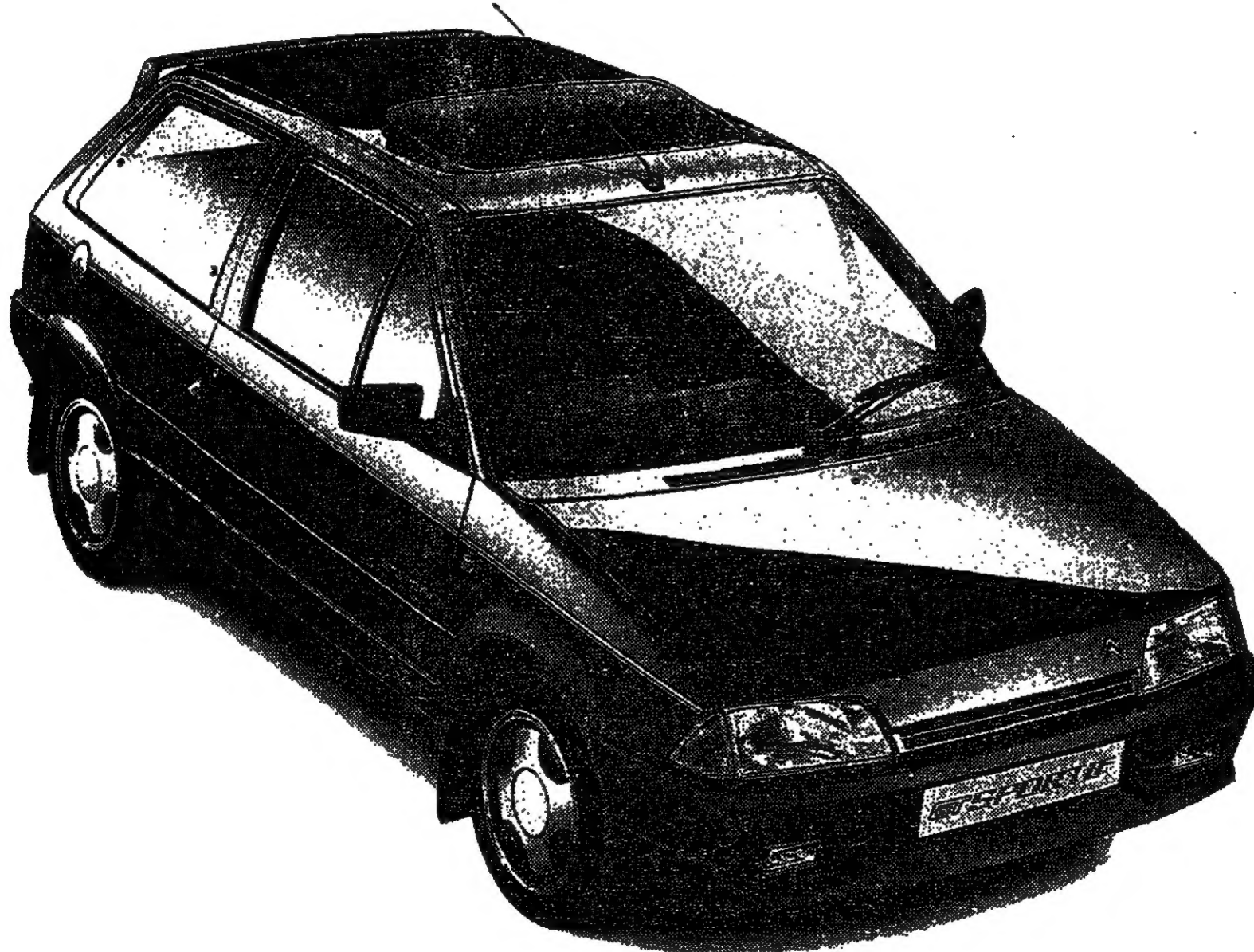
Bob Parry, deputy president, said farmers must be selfish. "Place your own interests and those of the farming industry first." Farmers had to take this last opportunity to voice their opinion on the state of the industry.

The union blames the government for the recession in agriculture. "Welsh farmers are experiencing one of the

worst periods in living memory," Mr Parry said. "Income is at record low levels. Lack of investment in new machinery and equipment is seriously weakening the structure of the industry. Confidence has been seriously eroded and young farmers feel that they have no future."

John Parker, a farmer and Conservative leader of Monmouth borough council, said the farming vote would stay with the Conservatives as it had in the local elections "despite constant threats from the Opposition that farmers would desert us in droves".

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## Planners told to allow more cheap homes in the country

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to relax planning controls on building in the countryside in order to encourage the construction of low-cost homes in country towns and villages.

An environment department circular to be published today will require local authorities to release land on the edge of existing rural settlements for housing, provided that developers undertake to build only affordable homes for local people. Councils will be given the power to

impose covenants on the new properties to prevent them being sold as second homes for wealthy outsiders.

Previous attempts to tackle the shortage of affordable houses and flats in the countryside have been defeated by planning regulations, which prevent building outside existing settlements.

The circular will also increase the powers of local authorities to require the inclusion of affordable housing in new residential developments throughout the country. For the first time, councils will be able to refuse planning permission if developers do not agree to include low-cost houses and flats for sale or rent in plans for housing developments.

The powers will apply equally to rural and urban areas and mark a sharp shift of emphasis by the government, which up to now has been content to allow developers to decide what to build once they have planning permission.

Under the former prime minister, the planning system was regarded as an obstacle to development but Mr Major and his environment secretary, Michael Heseltine, have made it clear that they see it as a key tool in protecting the environment and tackling social problems.

Up to now, councils have had the power only to enter voluntary agreements with developers to provide facilities in return for granting planning permission. The process, which has seen developers providing roads, shops and leisure centres, has led to accusations that builders were able to "buy" permission for unpopular developments by promising social amenities.

Tony Burton, senior planner of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, which has campaigned for changes very similar to those being unveiled today, said: "The growth of second homes and the conversion of villages into commuter dormitories has priced thousands of young people out of the housing market in the areas in which they live and work... This circular is a welcome step."

## Dispute over grant aid houses

By JOHN YOUNG

LOW-COST "starter homes" built for first-time buyers with the aid of government grants were sold to speculators, who resold them at a profit, according to a West Yorkshire council.

Calderdale district council plans to complain about the issue to the environment department.

The 75 houses on the Abbey Park estate, at Ilkley, West Yorkshire, were built by Barratt (Leeds) Ltd on land which the council was ordered by the department to dispose of at less than its market value. The department provided a subsidy of £364,000, on condition that the houses were not sold or resold within 12 months.

According to the council, however, at least 12 of the houses, costing between £27,000 and £37,000, were left empty by the purchasers or were rented out for the first year and then were resold for up to £80,000.

The council said the department should have stipulated that the houses could not be resold for five years, as was the case with council homes bought by their occupants, and that Barratt should have ensured that the purchasers were "genuine" first-time buyers.

Ian Smith, Barratt's managing director, said the company had broken no rules.



War-time Westminster: two of the photographs in an exhibition that marks the bombing of the Palace of Westminster on the night of Saturday, May 10, 1941. Harry Charlton, then MP for South Leeds and a member of the palace's

home guard, having a word with women auxiliaries, and the Commons chamber after a direct hit. The fiftieth anniversary exhibition opens today in the Houses of Parliament. The photographs also show the less serious damage to the

Lords chamber on that fateful night. Others are of the preparations being made to accommodate MPs and peers in Church House, near Westminster Abbey, where they met for the rest of the war. The photographs were discovered last

year by Commons library staff clearing out a store. Among them are scenes of the munitions factory located, in complete secrecy, beneath the floor of the central lobby. The library staff organising the exhibition, which will be opened by

the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, hope to be able to play a 1950 tape-recording of the new chamber's foundation stone laying ceremony performed by the then Speaker, Colonel Clifton Brown, and attended by Churchill and Attlee.

## Dog-attack man's wife speaks out

The wife of Frank Tempest, the Lincoln bakery worker savaged by two American pit bull terriers on his way home from a night shift last week, has commented for the first time on the mauling that left her husband scarred for life.

Sylvia Tempest, aged 46, was too upset to speak about the attack on Mr Tempest, aged 54, but relatives read her statement at a press conference she gave at Leicester Royal Infirmary, where he is recovering.

Mrs Tempest called for an end to legal loopholes that prevented prosecution of the dogs' owner, and, in her only spoken comment, she said of the owner: "If I could get my hands on him, I would strangle him."

Her statement said: "The whole family is angry that this type of dog, or any type of dog which is dangerous, is ever bred, imported, or owned as a pet."

## Parents' pride



John and Lyndis Sharman, of Sheffield, are looking forward to their daughter, Helen (above), aged 27, becoming Britain's first astronaut when the Anglo-Soviet Juno mission takes off on Saturday. Mr Sharman, aged 51, assistant principal at Stradbroke college, Sheffield, said: "It's not every day that your daughter makes history."

## Banknote plea

George Lowe, aged 51, a printer, of Carlisle, yesterday called for an enquiry into his arrest on a charge of having forged money and why it took four weeks to establish that a £20 note that he spent in a public house was legal tender, although withdrawn from circulation in 1983.

## Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly draw are: £100,000, bond 9LL 603349, winner lives in Leicester; £50,000, bond 14VK 049074 (Surrey); £25,000, bond 14RF 425759 (Lincolnshire).

## Struggle for control of courts delays reforms

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE government's response to plans for radical changes in the way magistrates' courts are run has been deferred indefinitely because of a power struggle between Whitehall departments.

An announcement from the home secretary was expected imminently, but a tussle has developed between the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's department over long-term control of the magistrates' courts service.

The Lord Chancellor's officials want the service to come under their wing alongside the higher courts. They have the backing of magistrates and justices' clerks.

The government's response on the future of magistrates' courts, they say, should include a long-term strategy for removing the service from the Home Office. However, the Home Office does not want to cede control and is emphasising the interdependence of different parts of the criminal justice system.

The dispute has wider implications for the creation of a ministry of justice. Last week Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, called for magistrates' courts to be removed from the Home Office and placed with the Lord Chancellor. He said that to give the minister responsible for law and order responsibility for administering justice "must expose him to temptation" to lead MPs and clerks "into what he would regard as the paths of righteousness".

Bringing all the courts under one department would partially deflect criticism made by those, including the Labour Party and the Law Society, who advocate a ministry of justice instead of the present split responsibility between departments.

It is two years since the Home Office report (known as Le Vay after its author) was published. It proposed a new nationally administered service, with magistrates' courts run and funded by a central government agency. Alternatively, it proposed bringing the courts under the control of regional boards.

The interdepartmental wrangle is thought to have deferred any government response for at least several weeks. The dispute is further complicated by the Treasury. Home Office ministers have hinted that they do not want to pursue either of the Le Vay

## Tory-led council may cut teachers

By CRAIG SETON

ONE in 20 teaching posts are to be cut in Warwickshire if the Conservative-led county council does not win its appeal against poll-tax capping.

Schools have been told to draw up plans to axe 211 teachers - 5 per cent of the total - to help make savings of £6 million on this year's budget and stay within the county's government-imposed spending limits.

The council is still awaiting a reply on its appeal to Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, to lift the cap on its £278 million budget, and has told him many of the government's educational objectives would be inoperable in Warwickshire if the cut in

teachers goes ahead. Warwickshire was one of 14 local authorities capped last month for exceeding government spending limits. Most of the others have decided not to appeal, but the county has continued to oppose the decision, saying vital services would be damaged for the sake of a 31p-a-week saving on individual poll tax bills.

The authority plans to axe 121 teaching posts in primary schools and 90 in secondary schools, which it says would mean that the number of pupils in many classes would exceed the maximum laid down by the authority.

Education, pages 31-33

## Trust lets people keep their roots

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

FROM their home on the edge of the village of Ashdon, near Saffron Walden, Essex, Jeremy and Christine Curzon look out on to fields and woods stretching to the horizon, and know that the view will not be spoiled by any further building.

It is the sort of view that people from outside the area are prepared to pay a lot of money for, and have done so in this village, steadily pricing out the locals. The invasion of the commuters and the weekenders has inevitably caused a migration of the people who grew up in the villages.

The Curzons' three-bedroom house is one of ten on a new development made "affordable" under a scheme initiated by the Rural Housing Trust, which builds homes for rent and for shared ownership, and is one of the latest to be completed. William Gosling, the trust's Anglian regional director, said: "The trust has identified a housing need for families whose roots are in the rural areas, but which could not be satisfied on the open market because of the general rise in house prices in the 1980s through demand from outside, and because the council house-building programme has almost entirely come to a halt."

Once a need has been identified in a village, a

search goes on for a plot of land outside the "planning envelope" and therefore not normally able to be developed. Landowners are being increasingly persuaded to hand over plots, usually of up to an acre, either as a donation or for a fraction of development value, on the understanding that the homes will always be retained for local people.

The only subsidies for these schemes are the cheap land and the absence of developers' profit. Mr Gosling said: "We have been very successful in acquiring land. Landowners are very supportive and keen to help."

After the land is acquired, the schemes are funded by housing associations (set up by the trust), through Housing Corporation or local authority grant, or through the banks. In that way, the homes can be sold at cost. At Ashdon, the land was donated and the houses have been priced at £42,500 compared with a going rate of about £70,000. When the owners sell, they take out their revalued share, leaving the home ready for another shared-equity buyer.

Throughout the country, about 90 schemes have been initiated by the trust. Moira Constable, trust director, is now leading the battle to encourage the larger housing associations to take part.

## Jaguar revives the racing glory days

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

JOHN Nielsen should have known better than to drive someone else's £500,000 car at up to 185 miles an hour through narrow streets, with the number 13 painted in large letters on its side.

The car, a Jaguar XJR-15, designed as the ultimate status symbol for the rich, the powerful or those with half a million to spend on an investment, was one of 16 built so far taking part in a race around the Monaco Grand Prix track. One of them crashed, ripping open its gleaming dark blue car-

bon-fibre side and costing its anonymous owner a lot of money. Not surprisingly, it was car number 13.

"It's all part of the game," Mr Nielsen, aged 35, a former Danish champion, said after the race. First prize for the winner - Derek Warwick, also a former champion - was another Jaguar, this time a XJR-S, which can be used on the roads. "I am not particularly superstitious, but I will never race a number 13 car again," said Mr Nielsen.

The race was set up by Tom Walkinshaw, whose designs had convinced Jaguar

that it might re-capture some of the successes it enjoyed on racing circuits in the Fifties. Somehow, he persuaded the authorities to hold a race exclusively for the XJR-15. The Monaco battle will be followed by similar races at Silverstone and Spa, Belgium, later this summer, with a first prize of \$1 million.

Jaguar plans to build 50 of the hi-tech racers and claims that they have already been sold to enthusiasts around the world. Many are corporate businesses hoping to attract crowds to their displays and make a profit when

they sell the car. Already one of the cars has been put on sale in Japan, where it was bought by a nightclub group, for £1.2 million - a profit in less than three months of £700,000. Some of the 450 brake horsepower cars are owned by individuals but most are destined for garages in America, Australia or Japan.

It is hoped the publicity generated by the Monaco Grand Prix will boost their value in the international market place, and help to push the name Jaguar back to the forefront of international motor racing.

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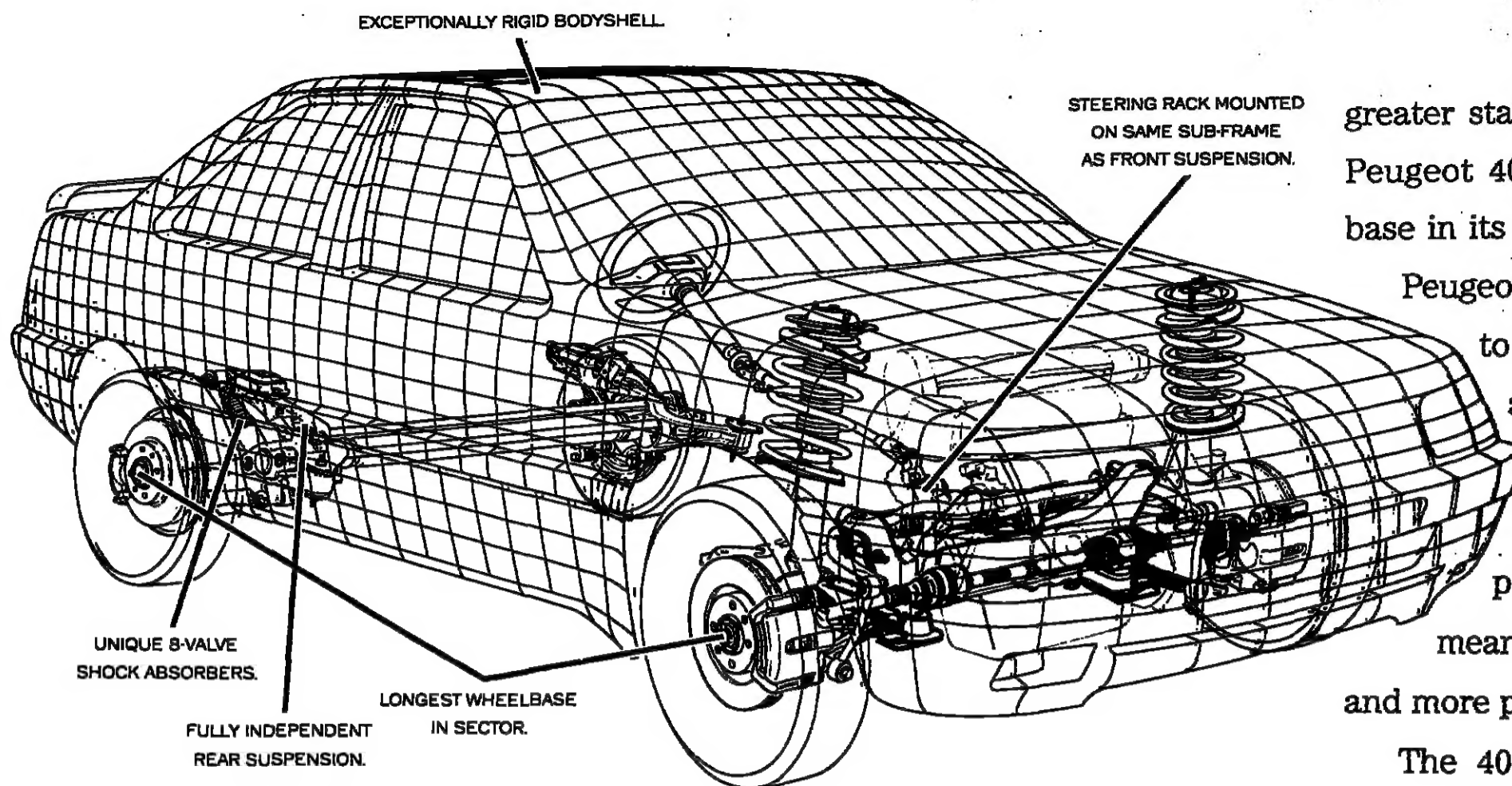
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صلى الله عليه وسلم



## Old dynasty challenged as caste war racks India

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

INDIA is in the throes of a class revolution that makes the general election, which starts on May 30, one of the most far-reaching in 44 years of independence. Backward castes from the teeming northern plains are making their first concerted bid for national political power, directly challenging the supremacy of the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty.

This accelerating movement has helped foment political and social disorder in the north for the past 18 months, all but destroying the economy and stretching even India's formidable security machine to breaking point. Many high-caste Hindus are turning to fundamentalism, believing it will preserve the status quo. In turn, this is heightening tensions with Muslims.

Rajiv Gandhi, the Congress (I) party leader, is struggling to find secure ground between the two extremes. His influence is slipping, although he might return to power by default if the backward castes fail to unite effectively — a distinct possibility. He is promising stability, a code word for the old order. Congress (I) may split if he loses his second consecutive election.

Southern India rebelled against the Brahmins decades ago, giving backward castes the opportunity to move up the social ladder after centuries of repression. These caste members are now the political backbone of the south. The more polarised and politically

important north, however, has a higher number of high-caste members, and they are fighting back. Until the contest is settled, India may be condemned to a prolonged era of unstable coalition rule.

The two opposite poles in the electoral fight are represented on the left by the Janata Dal, which is supported by Communists and regional parties in a coalition known as the National Front, and on the right by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which advocates a Hindu-dominated society. It opposes "appeasement" of Muslims, giving it a distinctly sectarian character.

Many Brahmins and high castes are abandoning Congress (I) for the BJP, which they think will fight to preserve traditional caste hierarchies. They criticise Congress (I) for flaccid leadership, lack of grassroots democracy, and of muddled reaction to Janata Dal's job reservation plans for backward castes.

Muslims have voted predominantly for Congress (I) in nearly every election since independence. This time they are confused, because Mr Gandhi has equivocated on demands by Hindu zealots for demolition of an ancient mosque on a disputed holy site in Ayodhya. They may switch to Janata Dal.

The Harijans (untouchables), the third leg of the traditional Congress (I) alliance, are a mystery. They have had job reservation since independence, but in practice their advancement has been blocked by bureaucratic resistance. Congress (I) may keep many of their votes. Logically they should support the left-wing Janata Dal, but the 190 million outcasts have good reason to fear the economic and social advancement of the backward castes.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Janata Dal leader and former prime minister, whose 11-month coalition collapsed last November, is a wealthy Rajput with a royal background, an unlikely champion for the low-caste masses. Headline writers call him "The Rajah". He came to power as a compromise candidate, without any political constituency. He is trying to build a constituency from backward castes and Harijans, who comprise half the population. He also hopes to capture a substantial number of Muslim votes because of his refusal to allow the Ayodhya mosque to be demolished last year, which precipitated his government's downfall.

The rise of backward-caste militancy is Mr Singh's principal legacy. He decided to implement a long-forgotten Mandal commission report, written a decade ago. It recommended job quotas for backward castes belonging to the Sudras, the lowest of the four categories of caste in classic Hindu society.



Gandhi: may be returned to power by default



Singh: royal champion of the low-caste masses

## Orderly start for Nepal democracy

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KATHMANDU

NEPAL calmly shrugged off its undemocratic past yesterday. Long queues formed at polling stations from mountain villages to the steaming plains of the Ganges, ushering in an era of parliamentary democracy after 32 years of rule by the royal family.

The general election has set Nepal apart from the rest of southern Asia for being largely free of violence, despite an official tally of six politically motivated killings and reports of violent clashes in some rural districts yesterday. Neither the army nor the steel-helmeted police was needed. Voting in the capital was a model of orderliness and observers from 20 countries appeared satisfied that the election was free and fair. Questions remain about the electoral lists, which some diplomats suspect were padded with fictitious names.

But despite these possible lapses, Nepal's first multi-party election since 1959 was something of a triumph, having been organised and implemented virtually from scratch in little more than a year. People queued for up to five hours without complaint in some areas of the capital. "We have waited for 32 years, so a few more hours will not matter," one voter said.

King Birendra, aged 46, who was forced to surrender

his powers in the face of last year's pro-democracy demonstrations, remained in his palace with Queen Aishwarya. He has never commented on the country's transition to democracy, although he did deliver a goodwill message to the nation a few days ago.

Western-educated and widely travelled, he has always appeared to be more attuned to public opinion than many advisers and members of his family. K.P. Bhattarai, the acting prime minister, praised the king yesterday for being a "gentleman" and co-operating in the constitutional changes. His remarks concealed a fierce struggle by the palace to hold on to some aspects of power, including the power to declare a state of emergency and to mobilise the armed forces.

Final results will not be known for a day or two. Facsimile machines, operated by car batteries, have been installed at some remote polling stations. There is a chance that nobody will win an outright majority in the 205-seat House of Representatives. The Nepali Congress, which is almost certain to win the largest number of seats, might be forced into a coalition with some communist factions or with one of both two pro-palace parties, both confusingly called the Nepal Democratic party.

## Starving village waits for food aid

From AHMED FAZL IN BASHKHALI BANGLADESH

ADAM Ali paused from hammering rusty nails into a battered fishing boat yesterday and glanced upwards as black clouds thickened over Bashkhali, which was devastated in the cyclone less than a fortnight ago.

The helicopter will not come today," said Ali, aged 40, as the 20,000 islanders faced another day of starvation. For the past two days tropical storms have prevented the airdrop of chira (flattened rice), molasses and high-protein biscuits by British and Indian helicopters on the island off the Cox's Bazar coast in the Bay of Bengal.

The village lost 500 people and 300 others are missing since the cyclone struck the southern Bangladesh coast, killing an estimated 200,000 people. The once prosperous village now has rows of graves along its beach. "About ten thousand people died on the island, but we buried only five



Waves of misery: lines of villagers in Haifa, Bangladesh, wait patiently as tropical storms prevent aid from reaching them after the cyclone

thousand," said Sharif Hussain, the island's civilian administrator. He has stopped counting the bodies. "It is more important to bury them," he said.

Ali, homeless and grieving over the loss of three children, has almost fixed his

boat and borrowed a net from a fellow fisherman to go out to sea. He has helped his colleagues repair a dozen boats. However, the clatter of hammers stops as children return from the beach with reports of a corpse being swept ashore. "We do

not know whether the bodies on the beach belong to this island or are from neighbouring Chokoria," said Rahim Khan, the headman, as the villagers dragged the body along the sand and prepared a new grave.

Suspected cholera has also

claimed 30 lives in a farming community half a mile from the village. A health worker said 200 others were affected by intestinal diseases caused by contaminated water. Salauddin Chowdhury, the local parliament member, said more people could die

in an epidemic unless preventive measures are taken.

The government in Dhaka has dispatched a medical team to the island on a ship that could take four days in fair weather to reach it. Until then, Bashkhali must fend for itself.

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صلى الله عليه وسلم



## Superpowers step up drive for Middle East peace despite warnings from Jerusalem

### Bessmertnykh joins Baker to put pressure on Israel

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN CAIRO

WASHINGTON and Moscow yesterday joined forces in a last-ditch effort to overcome formidable obstacles to a regional peace conference which both have agreed to sponsor.

A leading Egyptian commentator, Ali Ibrahim, called for a revival of the spirit which led to the Camp David peace treaty in 1979 as James Baker, the Secretary of State, and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, his Soviet counterpart, opened the first of two rounds of East-West talks at Cairo's luxury Semiramis Hotel.



backed by CIA and KGB agents was in place for last night's meeting, which took place close to the spot where Islamic fundamentalists on motorcycles shot Egypt's Speaker, Rif'at el-Maghoub, last October.

"The Camp David accords were signed in the post-October (1973) war era, when time was suitable for resolving the Egyptian-Israeli dispute," Mr Ibrahim wrote in a front-page article for the weekly *Egyptian Mail*. "Now there is general hope. If it does not materialise — and we can see the alternative — I think it will be a terrible tragedy."

Similar foreboding was expressed by the Syrian government daily, *Triskeen*, which noted with regret Mr Baker's claim that his latest shuttle — his fourth in two months — would be the last unless significant progress was made

towards convening a peace conference. "The losing of this last opportunity will threaten the situation in the Middle East and the whole world", the paper said in comments which reflected widespread Arab anxiety about the consequences of failure of Mr Baker's mission.

"There is a feeling that if the nettle is not grasped now, in this postwar mood, then the chance will have slipped away and soon we could be facing another Middle East war on the old familiar subject", one Arab official said. "There is a lot at stake."

Mr Baker opened his tour with six hours of talks with President Assad of Syria before returning to Cairo. Syria's attitude on the conference will be crucial to Washington's efforts to bridge the gap between Arab insistence on an important role for the United Nations and Israel's reluctance to permit United Nations participation.

American sources said that Mr Baker would be putting forward a compromise in which a representative of the UN secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, would attend the conference as a silent observer with no powers to involve himself. The sources said that Washington would propose the conference opening with a ceremony and breaking into direct talks between Israel and its immediate Arab neighbours, and between Israel and the Palestinians, whose representation still has to be agreed.

Mr Baker and Mr Bessmertnykh are due to address reporters jointly today before the Soviet foreign minister continues with an ice-breaking visit to Saudi Arabia. Moscow

and Riyadh resumed diplomatic ties last year after a break going back to 1938.

Both American and Soviet parties have an almost identical schedule, indicative of the harmony with which the two superpowers are now working to try to engineer a conference whose exact shape, venue or agenda remains shrouded in deliberate vagueness.

The agreement by Saudi Arabia, the wealthiest of the Arab nations to back the conference plan, was described by some American commentators as possibly providing the "spark" which is needed.

"We will break at least one major taboo, in the sense that we will have Arab states sitting down and negotiating with Israel," said Mr Baker, who did nothing to disguise his optimism.

The influential Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar, who rose to prominence during the Gulf war, is known to have played a key role in overcoming resistance by the more conservative members of the Saudi ruling family.

"It is a major step — at least now the regional conference is beginning to take shape", one Arab diplomat said. "With the involvement of the GCC, peace, which is very important for the Israelis, would be comprehensive."



History's witness: Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, visiting the Sphinx before his meeting with Mr Baker at which they two superpowers agreed to press ahead together in the hunt for a Middle East settlement

Leading article, page 15

### Shamir captures mood with speech of defiance

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, rarely receives praise for his eloquence, but his promise over the weekend never to relinquish an inch of territory appeared to capture the mood of his people as they turned out in their thousands yesterday to celebrate the Jewish state's decisive victory 24 years ago against the forces of the Arab world.

While the superpower foreign emissaries renewed efforts to bring Arab and Israeli leaders to the negotiating table to settle the consequences of the six-day war of 1967, children paraded through the old city singing nationalist songs and turning streets into a blue and white sea of Star of David flags.

The right-wing government which will host James Baker, the secretary of state, on his return to Jerusalem tomorrow, spent the day remembering those who fell in the numerous engagements for control of Jerusalem, vowing that their loss had not been in vain. Palestinians in Jerusalem stayed indoors and those living in the occupied territories were barred from entering the city by the police chief, Haim Albaldess, who explained that he wanted the day to pass "quietly and joyfully".

The same theme was taken up by Mr Shamir, who opened the celebrations on Saturday night in an address to a theological seminary, when he said: "We will not give up, not only on Jerusalem but any portion of a portion of the land of Israel. We will never tire... even if it takes all the time in the world, in order to defend our rights, not only concerning everything that touches on Jerusalem but concerning every part of the heritage of our fathers."

The declaration was one of the most uncompromising statements yet by the veteran leader, and its timing will do little to encourage the Ameri-



Shamir vowed never to relinquish land for peace

can-led initiative to sponsor peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, who envisage territorial concessions by Israel in return for peace. "We will muster every drop of will and energy and ability in order to stand on our rights to the land of Israel... all of the land of Israel," Mr Shamir said.

This tough stand was reinforced by the director-general of the prime minister's office, Yossi Ben-Aharon, who dismissed a sign of flexibility by the Arab Gulf states as meaningless. The six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council, led by Saudi Arabia, reversed a previous decision when it announced that it would join the peace talks as an observer, but Mr Ben-Aharon said: "As observers, there is no tangible contribution to the peace process because they maintain a state of war with us. We do not need observers, as far as the Arab states are concerned. We need participants."

Girls shot Jewish settlers shot and wounded two Palestinian girls, aged four and five, near Jerusalem yesterday. The settlers, from Shilo in the occupied West Bank, told police that they opened fire when an Arab minibus tried to force their bus off the road. (Reuters)

### Kurds leave desolate camps

From ANDREW FINKEL IN DIYARBAKIR

YESTERDAY was a day of comparative peace for the RAF station in Diyarbakir whose temporary camp lies between a runway and practice bombing site. The Turkish jet fighter pilots who roar off on training runs all week long at least take Sunday off.

Life in Turkey has grown generally quieter for allied troops, who until recently were making helicopter relief flights to the hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees stranded on the border. Now the relief work is better organised with supplies going by road, and many Kurds are at last making the difficult journey home.

Isikveren, once the largest refugee camp, has now shrunk to less than 10,000 people. It is still a desolate sight and a memorial to the time just over a month ago when it was home for close to 150,000 people. Suzanne Shannon of the American Embassy describes it as an ecological disaster area. "If the refugees continue to return then excess of relief supplies may soon become

a problem," says Fiona King of Save the Children Fund.

Outcasts to the east is now the largest camp. The refugees there are those waiting to hear when it will be safe to return to the provincial Kurdish capital, Dahuk. The United Nations will begin relief operations in Dahuk today, even though the refugees have said they will not go back unless they are protected by allied troops.

Those who have returned to Zakho either have homes in the town or in nearby villages, say relief workers. Those waiting to go to Dahuk who have begun the return journey have stopped near Zakho where they have been resettled in camps.

Save the Children Fund are particularly pleased by the decision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to establish itself in northern Iraq, as it provides cover for organisations working outside the "safe haven" zone.

### Male virility treatment - a success!

AN important breakthrough in the treatment of male impotence has led to unprecedented success in recent clinically controlled trials.

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# From the Pope to Markov, KGB casts a giant shadow



Agca said he was offered a fortune by Bulgarians

TEN years after a wild-eyed Turkish assassin fired at the Pope in St Peter's Square, the shooting is still a mystery. Was there a Bulgarian connection - Soviet bloc support for Mehmet Ali Agca - or was he acting alone? The Italian courts produced a very unsatisfactory result. The Balkanair representative, supposedly Ali Agca's go-between with Sofia, was eventually freed for lack of evidence while the other crucial Bulgarian contact slipped out of Italy.

The "Bulgarian connection" matters, even now, after the collapse of communist rule in eastern Europe. How far was European terrorism home-grown and how far a foreign incubus? Second, how deeply involved was the KGB in terrorism, and does the relationship continue?

Looking at newly democratic states of central and eastern Europe reveals a pattern of co-operation between communist

The KGB apparently dominates a spider's web of terrorism in western Europe. Roger Boyes in Warsaw looks at its motives and the "Bulgarian connection"

agents and West European terrorists. The Red Army Faction, for example, could not possibly have survived without East German assistance. Stasi files show. According to a Red Brigades commander, Maurizio Peci, an Italian terrorist needs more than £10,000 a year for rent, food, clothing and weapons. At its peak, the Red Brigades had 500 underground; that is it need £5 million a year for basic costs. The money came in part from a Prague slush fund.

All the bloc played a role in terrorism. Semtex explosives were produced - and tested - in Czechoslovakia; money was pumped to Abu Nidal through a

dummy company in Poland. The conventional description of the terror network is that of a spider's web, a weave of international contacts. But who then is the spider? The press expected too much from the "Bulgarian connection" but it remains the best hope of pinpointing the KGB role in terrorism.

Agca said that the Bulgarian secret services via Turkish intermediaries offered him a fortune to assassinate the Pope on May 13, that they talked him through the operation in Rome and provided the get-away route in the form of a Bulgarian TIR truck. The facts are that Agca was indeed in Sofia, that he could

describe more or less accurately the offices and private homes of Bulgarian officials resident in Rome, and that a truck did leave the Bulgarian embassy between 18:30 and 19:30 hours on the day of the shooting. The Bulgarian defence was that these details could have been fed to Agca while he was in prison, awaiting trial. To make the charges against Bulgaria stick, it was necessary to believe in the sanity of Agca, and this was indeed difficult at times.

Yet there are many loose ends and a great deal of evasion in Sofia. That is why the murder of the dissident Georgi Markov in London is important. If a pattern of co-operation between the KGB and the Bulgarian secret service can be established (and a defunct KGB general, Oleg Kalugina, supports this), it will be easier to understand the machinations of the papal plot. The Bulgarians had no particular motive for wanting to kill the

Pope, but the Soviet Union was indeed worried; there was, so to speak, a bloc motive.

The KGB, wanting to head off an anti-communist rebellion in eastern Europe, may well have reasoned that Solidarity would crumble without a Polish pope (or without the money that was being funnelled to the union via the Vatican bank). For Moscow, the Ali Agca attempt was a completely deniable plot: a right-wing, apparently unhinged Turk shoots a Pole in Italy.

It is now clear that the KGB chaired regular intelligence briefing sessions with the heads of East European secret services. Joint Soviet-East European operations were quite common throughout the 1980s; for example, to dodge Cocom regulations barring strategic exports to the east. The KGB also played a direct role in domestic East European politics until 1990.

When the communist regimes

were toppled East European secret service chiefs destroyed thousands of files more or less simultaneously in several countries, again suggesting that the KGB ordered such a move. It is a reasonable bet that the KGB pursued a similar intelligence-gathering technique on the question of terrorism - that it is the spider in the web's centre.

Here then is the up-to-date message of the conspiracy against the Pope. The east Europeans are moving towards democratic rule and are no longer safe havens for terrorists. The international terrorist network is seriously disrupted. But the KGB is fundamentally unchanged; there have been only token reforms and the agency has at its head the same directors who planned strategy in West Europe in the early 1980s. Has the agency really abandoned the terror weapon? Perhaps the time has come for a larger dose of glasnost.

## Rock poll backs Brussels talks

By MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Gibraltar government came under new pressure at the weekend to drop its boycott of the Brussels talks between Britain and Spain over the Rock's future, after a poll showed overwhelming opposition to policies of Joe Bossano, the chief minister.

In the run-up to a crucial election on Thursday, a poll conducted by the Gibraltar Chronicle and the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation among 3 per cent of the 15,000-strong eligible voters, found that 60 per cent want Gibraltar to participate again in the deadlocked talks.

The poll shows a rapid change in Gibraltar opinion and comes after Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, warned John Major in talks last week Spain would have to rethink its policy on Gibraltar if no progress was made in the talks.

Mr Bossano, who is hostile to any attempt by Spain to negotiate on the sovereignty issue, sharply attacked Señor Gonzalez over the weekend, saying his attitude to Gibraltar was like that of Franco.

His remarks in a newspaper interview are likely to strain relations with Madrid further and will annoy the Foreign Office. Britain opposes Mr Bossano's move to take Spain to the European Court of Justice over its unwillingness to allow new airlines to fly to Gibraltar. The Foreign Office has been working to remove the Gibraltar irritant to better relations with Madrid, but the Gonzalez visit has put this at the top of the agenda again.

## Talk of war grows after rebel Serbs vote to quit Croatia

FROM TIM JUDAH IN KIJIN, CROATIA, AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

AS FRANJO Tudjman, the Croatian president, promised to reinforce rather than disarm his reserve police units in areas of tension, his republic's rebel Serbian area of Krajina went to the polls.

Voting was brisk in Kijin, the region's capital, yesterday morning. At polling station No 4 two ballot boxes sat on a Serbian flag, fresh garlic and biscuits were served to the voters and private booths were deemed unnecessary.

The ballot papers asked whether voters wanted their region, which has already unilaterally declared independence from Croatia, to become part of the republic of Serbia, "and thus remain in Yugoslavia with Serbia, Montenegro and others that want to preserve Yugoslavia." The answer to such a question in areas like Kijin, with their Serb majority, is not in doubt. A massive vote in favour is a foregone conclusion.

In the streets of Kijin there are two kinds of shops. There are those which are festooned with Yugoslav and Serbian flags and those that have been smashed and looted. The walls are covered with the spray-painted symbol of Serbian nationalism. Direction signs for Croatian towns have been obliterated and only the names of other Krajina and Bosnian towns remain.

Few voters seemed bothered that there were no private voting booths in polling station No 4. In fact, according to Vojin Macura, the man in charge, this was proof of democracy. "This shows that

no one is scared." He also said that by lunchtime 90 per cent of the voters had cast their ballots, "including Croats", and that "no one has voted against union with Serbia".

The Serbs of the Krajina region are living in three separate, non-adjacent districts. If parts of Serb-populated Bosnia were to follow their lead a big step will have been taken in creating greater Serbia. That is if Belgrade,



Tudjman: his rhetoric is bound to anger the army

which has remained uncharacteristically quiet about Krajina's secession, accepts the result of the poll. The Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, knows that the dismembering of Croatia would have to be paid for in blood.

Yesterday voters were divided on the inevitability of war. Gjorkica, a teacher, said: "If the Croats could have done something, they would have done it by now. Today it's too

late and they are too scared." Krsto Kotaras, a retired baker, said: "The Serbs are ready for war and I think there will be one." Asked about Krajina's leaders and the Croatian leadership negotiating a settlement, he said: "Tudjman is a bandit and the biggest liar in Europe."

Not surprisingly, Krajina's leaders were in a happy mood yesterday. Lazar Macura, the deputy mayor of Kijin and the head of its radio station, said: "I don't expect war because the Croats would have no chance of winning. You must have bloodshed to make a country."

Asked about last week's agreement signed by Yugoslavia's federal presidency, Mr Macura said the country's collective leadership - meeting in different places every time - were mere "tourists". However, he said that Kijin's militias, which control the streets and man the road blocks, would disarm if the Croats did the same.

Asked where their guns came from, he laughed and said: "There are so many smugglers, guns are no problem; what we need are good warriors. In fact, we have good warriors and won two world wars; our tragedy is we lost two world peace."

Despite his assurances that Croats were voting "Yes" to union with Serbia, there seemed to be few on the streets yesterday. As the rain began to fall, the town's new Catholic priest, Father Josip Grgic, said that he did not believe that Croats would vote "Yes" and said sadly that last week's destruction and looting of Croatian shops would mean that by the end of the year "there would be no Croats left here."

Under pressure from extremists who are accusing the Croatian leadership of a sell-out, Dr Tudjman and his closest associate, Dr Stipe Mesic, were at pains to reassure the nation that Croatia would not yield an inch of its



sovereignty. They used the kind of fiery rhetoric which is bound to irritate the military.

Mr Mesic, who under the annual rotation between six republics is to take over the chairmanship of the Yugoslav presidency, issued a warning that Croatia would crush the Serb rebellion if the Yugoslav army failed to restore law and order within a month.



Off beat: a brunette Madonna jogging at Cap d'Antibes on the French Riviera yesterday. The American singer is to join the 44th Cannes Film Festival for the presentation of her latest film *Truth or Dare*.

Dare: In bed with Madonna. Few sightings have been reported since she checked into a £1,764-a-day suite at a Jean les Pins hotel. French customs spent an hour searching her party for drugs when they arrived.

## Kohl braves public wrath to halt slide in popularity

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, pelted with eggs, tomatoes and ink-bombs during a visit to one of east Germany's most depressed regions last Friday, means to defy his security advisers and carry on meeting the people there in an effort to regain the popularity lost since being elected chancellor of a united Germany five months ago.

His bodyguards are worried. Last Friday a handful of the chancellor's more militant young opponents had no trouble in getting within easy range of him on an impromptu walkabout in front of the town hall in Halle and his bulk makes him an easy target. Counter-intelligence reports

have drawn attention recently to the growth of violent right-wing and left-wing extremist groups in east Germany since unification, and the chancellor's bodyguards believe they have reason to fear for his safety if he continues to meet the people during his planned visits there.

Her Kohl, however, believes that he can only recover his lost popularity and inspire confidence in the success of unity if he makes himself accessible. He was severely criticised for failing to visit the east after the election when the economy began to deteriorate rapidly, and opinion polls have now convinced the chan-

cellor that he must be seen to show a real personal interest in what is happening.

According to a poll published by *Die Spiegel* today, his party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), has lost nearly 6 per cent support to the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) since the election and is now trailing for the first time since unification, with just 38 per cent backing compared with 40 per cent for the socialists.

The CDU have lost most heavily in the east, where 13 per cent of the voters have switched sides as unemployment rises along with the cost of living.

## Italy penalises its love of luxury

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

ITALIANS were shaken this weekend by a barrage of new taxes on luxury goods, from lobster and oysters to cellular telephones and yachts. Italian people love luxury, the more ostentatious the better. The idea of discretion in affluence is familiar only to a few eccentrics and social outcasts. The economic boom of the 1980s has left its mark on society.

Possibly the most colourful new tax is on lobsters, not that there are many left in the Mediterranean these days, and on other expensive sea-

foods like oysters, crab, clams and the shrimp family. The law specifies a doubling of the seafood tax and advocates the same on shoes, clothing and "ornamental plants".

A heavier tax is to be placed on the fashionable four-wheel-drive vehicles, with names like *Renegade*, *Landcruiser* or *Trailblazer*, that the well-heeled young use to carve their way through city traffic. Depending on engine size, they will now pay between £70 and £400 a year extra. Another fiscal target is the cellular telephone, which

apart from professional uses is widely carried by the wealthy and the would be wealthy as an essential accessory. It will now cost an extra £140 a year in tax.

Boat owners are also penalised with the mooring tax for an 18-metre yacht, not exceptionally large by today's standards, shooting up from £200 to £6,500 a year. Italians, among the world's heaviest whisky drinkers, will now have to pay the equivalent of 50p more a bottle, as they will on other spirits. There is to be a £14 a year tax on credit

cards, and a £70 a year surtax on motorcycles over 350cc, on the ground that they are a luxury rather than a means of transport.

These taxes should raise about 7,000 billion lire (£3 billion), hardly enough to dent Italy's annual deficit of about 150,000 billion lire. But the general election is only a year away, perhaps less. Carlo de Benedetti, president of Olivetti, said: "These are measures taken by the government with one eye on the public debt and two eyes on the voters."

## THANK YOU SOUTH KOREA

The International Fund For Animal Welfare (IFAW) ... on behalf of its 650,000 supporters around the world ... wishes to thank the Korean Government for introducing a new law to protect animals.

The law means that in future it will be illegal to inflict unnecessary suffering on dogs and cats slaughtered for human consumption. Present methods of killing include hanging, strangling, hammering, burning and, sometimes boiling alive. More than two million animals a year are involved.

The Korean Government is to be applauded for taking positive steps to outlaw such practices. IFAW is committed to working with the Government, and people of Korea to ensure full public support for the new law.

IFAW also wishes to thank its British supporters and other animal lovers, who have backed its eight year campaign to ease the plight of dogs and cats in Korea.

The new law marks an historic step forward. And hopefully a beginning of an end to the cruelty.



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## Tyminski strikes back with 'X' factor

Warsaw - The eccentric Polish-Canadian millionaire Stanislaw Tyminski has launched a political party, known as "Party X", which he hopes will unsettle the government and throw out the policy of market reforms (Roger Boyes writes).

Mr Tyminski, who won a surprisingly robust 23 per cent in the presidential elections against Lech Walesa last winter, claims to have about 5,000 party members and activists. He will make a challenge in every constituency, probably concentrating on Silesia, and his first aim is to raise enough money for the purpose.

The main target of his party is the finance minister, Leszek Balcerowicz. The packed congress crowd was told that Professor Balcerowicz would be put on trial for destroying the economy and creating mass unemployment in the rush to the market.

## Swiss trying to heal trade rift

Geneva - The Swiss government has said that membership of the Economic Community is becoming a "priority option" now that Geneva is faced with the likely breakdown of talks between the EC and the European Free Trade Association (Efta) on creating a European Economic Area - or free-trade zone of 350 million people.

The meeting in Brussels today between the 12 EC and the six Efta countries is a last attempt to reach some agreement before winding up the three-year negotiations on June 24.

## Britons held

Bangkok - Three Britons, Stephen Cuzens, aged 29, David Coulthart, aged 30, and Neal Billclough, aged 30, allegedly caught with stolen credit cards were arrested, in the Thai resort of Pattaya and taken to Bangkok to face fraud charges. A Swedish man was also arrested and accused of being part of the same ring.

## EC car talks

Paris - A European Community delegation will present proposals in Tokyo on access to EC markets for Japanese cars when the single market comes into force. Frans Andriessen, European Commission vice-president and Jacques Delors, its president will follow for more detailed talks. (AFP)

## Rebels hold port

Nairobi - Ethiopian rebels claimed that they had repelled a government offensive to recapture the rebel-held port of Bevil after four days of fighting. The radio of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front said that 2,000 government troops were killed, 1,700 wounded and 12 captured.

## Poll victory

Coleombo - Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party won control of 190 of the country's 237 councils in local government elections. More than 75 per cent of the 8.7 million electorate voted. Polls were not held in the Northern and Eastern provinces, where there is fighting between government forces and guerrillas.

## Jailed MP freed

Kiev - The hunger-striking Ukrainian MP, Stepan Khmara, was released from prison two days before the start of his trial for inciting civil unrest. The republic's opposition umbrella group, Rukh, claimed his imprisonment was a "political attack" on the Ukraine's independence movement.



# Pretoria talks in danger after raid by Zulus kills 25

From Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg

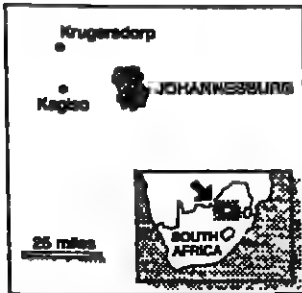
AT LEAST 25 people were killed yesterday when up to 1,000 Zulus attacked a Xhosa squatter camp at Kagiso, near Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg. The latest mass killing in the township war between supporters of the Inkatha Freedom party and the African National Congress came as the future of constitutional talks between the government, the ANC and Inkatha neared collapse.

President de Klerk is due to meet Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the KwaZulu homeland and Inkatha, this week to try to persuade him to accept a ban on the carrying of spears by Zulus except on genuine "cultural occasions". At the weekend, Zulu chiefs declared they would "never compromise" on the carrying of traditional weapons.

Residents of the Swaniesville squatter camp at Kagiso said the Zulu hostel dwellers, wearing red headbands — the unofficial insignia of Inkatha imps — and armed with spears and sharp instruments, launched their attack before dawn when most people were asleep. Some claimed they had seen police in armoured personnel carriers escorting the raiders towards the camp, but a police spokesman said a police patrol had escorted the Zulus to their hostels to prevent further attacks on township residents.

Late yesterday morning bodies were still lying covered by blankets in the streets of the squatter camp hours after the attack. "We have not finished counting them," the police spokesman said. At least 30 people had been injured and more than 80 squatter shacks burnt down, he said.

The Kagiso raid came 24 hours after police opened fire on hundreds of white farmers attacking black squatters near Ventersdorp in the western Transvaal, about 100 miles from Johannesburg. Two of the farmers were wounded by shotgun fire. The fight was defused only after Adrian



Vlok, the law and order minister, flew in by helicopter to talk to the farmers' leaders. Afterwards as they licked their wounds, both physical and mental, the farmers expressed outrage and disgust at the police action.

One said he found himself facing his brother during the clash. "This is war. My own brother was shooting at me," said the man, who identified himself as Jan. "I can't tell you my surname. They will take it out on my brother if they know who I am."

Mr Vlok, clearly relieved after two hours of negotiations with the farmers' leaders, admitted: "It was difficult. There were some real Rambos there." He said he was "very happy that reason was the winner", but was "very concerned that there may be more of this in the future. I appeal to everybody to settle issues in a peaceful and proper way".

The farmers had gathered at Ventersdorp, home of Eugene Terre Blanche, the leader of the neo-fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement, to drive about 400 black squatters out of a government-owned farm. The squatter community, forcibly removed from the land 13 years ago.

Late on Friday night a group of balaclava-wearing whites on horseback attacked the camp, beating people and setting huts alight. Mr Terre Blanche was seen in the area later with a group of men on horseback, but police said they had been persuaded to leave.

Early on Saturday police and troops spotted a large convoy of vehicles approaching the farm. According to Wilco Beukes, the farmers'

leader, they were planning to drive the squatters back to the Bophuthatswana homeland "at our own expense". When some of them drove on to the government-owned farm and tried to bulldoze their way through the squatters' shacks the police opened fire.

At the same time another group of whites attacked a small black squatter camp at the Tshing township, eight miles away. Fourteen people were injured, some seriously, but Mr Beukes denied the incident was connected with the farmers' action.

The police action is certain to heighten tensions between the government and the white right. Professor Alf Stadler, head of the department of politics at Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, said the security forces had crossed an important political boundary. He said: "It is a long, long time since the police fired on whites, but it was a crucial issue for any reform whether the police would do it and at their traditional base — the farmers."



Flight from danger: a resident of Swaniesville squatter camp near Johannesburg flees with her daughter and their belongings after supporters of the Inkatha Freedom party attacked the settlement, killing at least 25 people

## Buthelezi's stock rises among the frontline leaders

From Michael Hartnack in Harare

IN THE first gesture of its kind to a man previously branded a puppet of the South African government, the Inkatha leader, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, will be received for talks in Lusaka today by the chairman of the seven frontline states, President Kaunda of Zambia.

At a weekend summit in the Zambian capital, the seven heads of state placed the blame for continuing violence in South Africa on President de Klerk's shoulders, applauded moves for unity between the different African factions, and took no public stance on the African National Congress ultimatum to Mr de Klerk, which expires today.

The ANC deputy leader, Nelson Mandela, has threatened to break off constitutional talks unless a number of conditions are met, including the removal of South Africa's defence minister, Magnus Malan, and the law and order minister, Adriaan Vlok, and the complete disarming of Inkatha's Zulu imps.

The leaders of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and

Zimbabwe are reluctant to see a stalemate in the South African political process. President Kaunda's willingness to receive Chief Buthelezi is a conciliatory gesture.

The front-line leaders deplored moves to lift sanctions by the European Community and demanded sustained pressure on Pretoria until "really meaningful" changes had been achieved. "I am not saying de Klerk is a bad man, but he must control his right-wing forces," said President Kaunda.

The South African government has refused to outlaw the carrying of spears by Zulus in view of their "cultural significance".

JOHANNESBURG: The judge is expected to begin delivering his judgment today in the trial of Winnie Mandela on kidnapping and assault, charges after a three-month trial. Justice M.S. Stegman scheduled a hearing for today after the defence and the prosecution concluded their cases on Friday. Court officials did not know how long it would take to deliver the verdict. (AP)

## Afghan rebels to lose US aid

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

THE Bush administration has sought no new funding for the Afghan rebels in its 1992 budget request to Congress, a sign that Washington is reconsidering its 11-year policy of seeking to overthrow the Soviet-backed government in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Senior officials emphasised that the administration may yet decide to ask for funds before Congress completes the budget, but *The New York Times* quoted officials yesterday as saying the administration was tiring of the war.

Moreover, while President Najibullah of Afghanistan has begun to seem more moderate, the actions of some rebel leaders have become more alarming; three of the seven groups supported Iraq during the Gulf war.

America has recently been giving the rebels between \$200 million (£117 million) and \$300 million a year in aid.

### Gurkha call-up

Hong Kong — A group of 130 Hong Kong-based British army Gurkhas will be sent to Cyprus this summer to serve as drivers with the United Nations forces there, in their first attachment to the UN.

### Angola clash

London — The Angolan government and UNITA rebels have reported clashes and shelling in the eastern town of Luena ahead of a ceasefire due to take effect on Wednesday after 16 years of civil war. (Reuters)

### Face down

Boston — Teresa Fischette, a ticket agent for Continental Airlines, has been sacked because she refused to wear make-up under a new company policy. She says she will go to court to fight for her job and her woman's rights. (AP)

### Papal summon

Lisbon — The Pope is to meet here with Lucia de Jesus Santos, aged 84, a Portuguese Carmelite nun, who is the only surviving witness of a vision of the Virgin Mary in 1917 and the holder of the so-called "Third Secret of Fatima". (Reuters)

## Thailand toughens stance on drugs

From Andrew Drummond in Bangkok

THE Thai government is considering executing a foreigner convicted of drug trafficking because police and some politicians are fed up with the country's image of being a drugs haven.

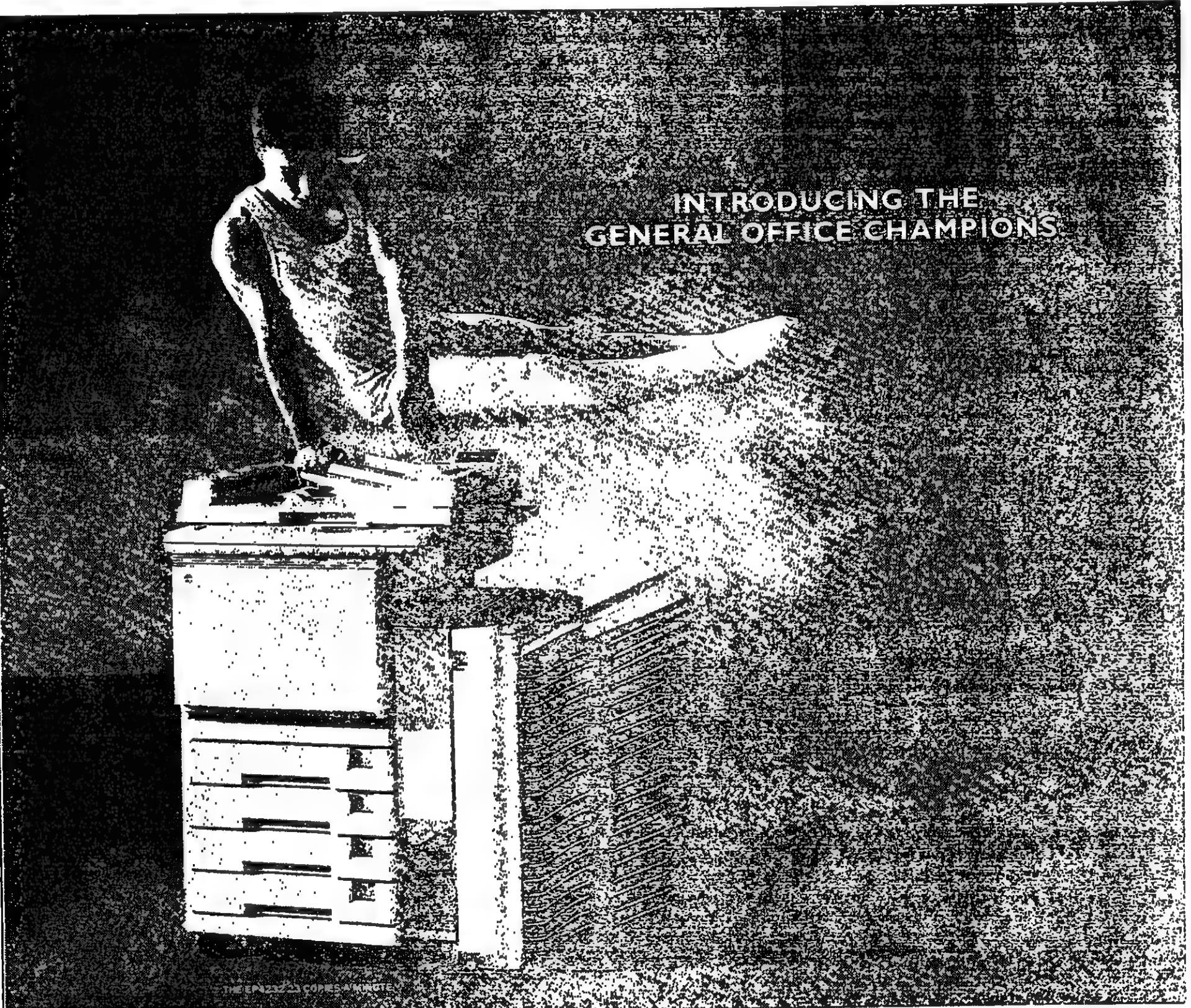
Karyn Smith, the Briton convicted of heroin drug trafficking, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment and her younger colleague, Patricia Cahill, will only face a jail sentence if convicted on May 21 of heroin trafficking charges. The new military government has become increasingly impatient with the rising numbers of foreigners working there as drug traffickers, said a diplomat of one European mission.

Diplomats of several European countries have been notified in informal meetings and strongly-worded letters have been sent to several countries in West Africa, which have a total of nearly 150 couriers in jail in Bangkok either already sentenced or



Smith: Bangkok angry at safe haven image

awaiting trial on drugs trafficking charges. The British embassy has passed on its "extreme concern" to Nigeria. Until last year British officials represented Nigerians imprisoned in Thailand. It is this group which look like being singled out, a diplomat said. The Thai government, controlled by the national peacekeeping council, is concerned by the death sentence handed out to a Thai in Indonesia for drugs trafficking.



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Joe Joseph considers a proposal that a man in possession of power must be in want of an "executive wife" and offers help for executive husbands who wish to make friends and influence (female) people

## Great man seeks great little woman

Frankly, it is getting ridiculously hard nowadays to find a wife who will wash, cook, sprinkle talcum powder between your toes and handle all the minor things, such as where to live, where to go on holiday and where to send the children to school, while we men concentrate on the important issues, such as who should be prime minister, how to sort out the Middle East and when to end the recession.

Men who seriously want to swell their chances of finding a willing wife would do best to steer clear of minuscule careers such as playwrighting and gardening. These jobs attract the sort of woman who, if she is in a really good mood, might just see her way to switching off your alarm clock in the morning.

No, the way to land a really helpful spouse is to buy a blue suit and become a businessman, according to a new book by someone who has investigated what the modern executive needs to get on in the world. What the modern executive needs is an "executive wife".

Luckily, there are queues of applicants. Wait, there is more. The really smart, executive-minded modern man will marry early for the sole purpose of being able to ditch his first executive wife and find a second, even more willing one.

"Second wives make their husbands their number one priority," says Wendy Walden, the author of *Executive Wives: How to Become the Powerful Influence Behind Successful Men* (published by Mercury on May 28).

"They possess a confidence and independence that eluded the first wives. As the second wife of a prominent executive, there's no longer a prejudice against divorce in the corporate and political world. It's almost the opposite. In some instances, the man-with the ageing, nice, matronly wife is frowned upon. He's seen as not keeping up appearances."

And to make sure an executive does not land a dud second time around, there are a few simple tests. Even though Donald Trump is down to his last \$2 million, perhaps he should consider the following before deciding whether Maria Maples is to become Mrs Trump II. Today's executive wife must be able to tell what time it is in Bonn and know the exchange rate in Tokyo, feel comfortable in foreign currencies and mix well with the corporate hierarchy, the community and the political scene... women who are married to men with power

and public acclaim must re-tool their thinking to become the 21st century executive wife.

So a simple test: you spot a potential wife across a room. How do you know if this could be a true marital merger? First, ask her what time it is in Tonga. Then find out if she knows how many escudos to the dinar. Is *primus inter pares* a description of the British prime minister in cabinet or a type of stove used by Boy Scouts? Hide the engagement ring if she trips up on even one question. It's tough, but so is being a big cheese's chesette.

How tough? "That feeling of rising uneasiness was creeping upon me again," says one wife in the book. "I recognised all the symptoms: feverish head, icy limbs, an increased heart rate, the tensing up of shoulder and neck muscles. For a moment all went black, followed by blurry vision. I sat down, grabbed hold of the armrest and inhaled deeply." To you that may sound like a scene from *Apocalypse Now*. To this corporate wife, it was the

routine panic that erupted every time she had to entertain her husband's business friends.

So she - for it was Ms Walden herself - wrote a book about it. She is a successful businesswoman who trains and finds jobs for top executives. After deciding that many of these businessmen's wives hindered their husbands' social and corporate success, Ms Walden trained her counselling skills

on the women, too, teaching them how to "be exhilarated with all the options of being married to the great one".

Why should a successful businesswoman be lecturing women on how to arrange flowers rather than on how to become successful, like herself? Well, partly because there are not enough hours in the day to follow Ms Walden's instructions on being an executive wife and keep any time for yourself for running and jumping, let alone mastering a successful business.

She teaches that "self-confidence is a power source". One wife who wept to her that she shamed herself when eating grapes at a swanky dinner visited Ms Walden every day and the two of them peeled grapes with their fingers and knives until she mastered it. Why not just skip the fruit?

But it is not all just fiddling with fruit knives. As well as learning all the world's time zones and enough exchange rates to help out in the foreign currencies department of your local NatWest, Ms Walden's

*'In some instances, the man with the ageing, nice, matronly wife is frowned upon'*



Career move: Donald Trump could put Maria Maples through a few tests before making her Mrs Trump II

ideal wife has at least a month's worth of research before every social engagement. Let us suppose, as Ms Walden does, that a big boy from a computer company invites the husband and wife to dinner. How does she prepare for the evening?

Well, first of all, says Ms Walden, the wife must contact the Companies Registration Office in London and find out how many directors the computer company has and when it was formed, and study its latest set of accounts. Buy every computer magazine for further information, scan general titles such as *Business* magazine and *Management Today*. Telephone the company's press office and ask for cuttings.

"For the weeks prior to the evening, buy the *Financial Times* and check each day the value of the company's shares," Ms Walden advises. "This has proved enormously helpful to you, because you read that he has a wife and two children and that he was previously managing director of the National Farmers' Union and responsible for more than 20,000 employees. He came

from a farming family but did not enjoy farming, much to his father's displeasure. Imagine the scoop you have here!" You may also have a very suspicious computer executive who wonders what the hell business it is of yours whether he fell out with his father.

What if the conversation is above your head? "When all else fails," Ms Walden counsels, "a young writer friend of mine resorts to using words in unfamiliar contexts. She doesn't care what it means." This friend blurts out things like: "The play is a multidisciplinary macro-system pour le sport of verbal jousting!" Well, Ms Walden reckons that this friend "comes across as an individual who is highly intuitive and perceptive". Or barmy.

But Ms Walden offers no advice on what the executive husband should do to butter up the big cheese's wife while his own executive wife impresses the big cheese. May we help?

● *Things An Executive Husband Can Say To A Big Cheese's Wife...* How long have you been married? The yen hardly buys anything any more, don't you find? Don't you just wish they carried more recipes in *Management Today*?

It must be, what, 10.30 in Rio right now? What do you think of the new filing system at Companies House? Do you find that the play is a multidisciplinary macro-system pour le sport of verbal jousting?

● *Things He Cannot Say...* Tell me, are you his first or his second wife?

Would you care for some grapes? Do you have a spare press pack I could have? You look like your head is feverish, your limbs are icy, your heart rate has increased, and shoulder and neck muscles are tense. Are you suffering from blurry vision as well?

It must be, what, 10.30 in Rio right now? Let's cha-cha-cha.

## Old problem for Britons in Benidorm

The honorary consul in the Spanish resort has no trouble with lager louts - but his hands are still full

John Seth-Smith can occasionally be seen performing his duties on the Costa Blanca in an "I love Benidorm" T-shirt. He is not a holiday rep, but the honorary consul in Spain's infamous holiday town.

Last week Benidorm announced a £317 million five-year plan to transform its image and rid itself of "lager louts". In London a Foreign Office spokesman said that holidaymakers who broke the law should not believe they could rely on British consulates to bail them out. Mr Seth-Smith, who is the first point of contact for Britons who run into trouble in Benidorm, says that while arrests attract a lot of attention, "they represent only a relatively small part of my consular work, certainly in the winter".

Two years after they were inaugurated, campaigns to weed out the lager louts before they go abroad and to inform travellers of what they should and should not expect of their consulates appear to be paying off in terms of fewer violent incidents.

But Mr Seth-Smith, aged 45, has identified a new type of British holidaymaker who often requires his assistance. "Some of the older people who come out here in winter require a lot of help," he says. "Some have retired early; there are subsidised trips for older people; some come out on doctors' orders. Some don't remember who or where they are, and maybe shouldn't be coming out at all; but that's not for me to decide."

Mr Seth-Smith spends an average of about two hours a day on consular work, and his winter work load is not much lighter than the summer one. A typical case was that of a man in his

eighties who wandered off from his hotel. The next morning he was found sleeping outside the back door of another hotel which was closed for the winter. As he spoke English, the British consular officer was alerted. It took him two hours to convince the elderly old gentleman to get into a police car and accept an offer to help him find his hotel. In the process the man's fear that the police had come to lock him up had to be overcome, as he thumped them belligerently on the chest.

Mr Seth-Smith, an insurance broker, left Wolverhampton for the Spanish coast town 20 years ago. Being an honorary consul, he is relieved of most of the paperwork, like issuing emergency passports (that is done at the

consulate in nearby Alicante), but his is nevertheless a varied task: "Identifying bodies, talking to detainees, helping people understand court papers or find a local lawyer."

In Madrid, Doug McIntyre, the chief consul, says: "The distribution of the workload varies from place to place." A common misconception in Seville, where more British tourists seem to be robbed than anywhere else in Spain, is that a consul will replace lost or stolen goods. In fact, a consul normally does not even advance money to stranded and penniless travellers; more often he or she helps them contact family members or friends. In an emergency, however, a consul may choose to advance up to £50 cash against a cheque supported by a banker's card.

"We can't bail out anybody," says Mr McIntyre, correcting another common misconception. "What we do do is visit people in jail and inform them of their rights under local laws; if necessary



Problems: sun, sand and the over-sixties

*'Some older people who come in winter require a lot of help'*

we help them get a court-appointed lawyer." A consul can also issue an emergency passport, explain how to use the telephone system, and register marriages, births and deaths. But he cannot organise a work permit, investigate a crime, or act as interpreter in a dispute with your landlord, or neighbours.

Staff generally work during the normal office hours of the country in which they are based, but there is usually an answer phone message for emergencies. Of course, what constitutes an emergency is a matter of individual judgment. One consul's phone rang at midnight and a voice at the other end asked: "What's the capital of England?"

HARRY DEBELIUS

## "Stopping truancy stops the rot"



Under the new Criminal Justice Bill parents will be fined for failing to control their children. This Friday The TES looks at the link between truancy and crime.

**TES**

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

A decorative art on its last legs can still inspire devotion

WALLPAPER used to be something people scraped off when they moved into a house - first the woodchip, then the vinyl, then the faded Forties floral underneath. Unless expensive, in which case it probably looked like distressed paint anyway, wallpaper was vulgar; as an epithet, "wallpaper" implied something bland, down-market.

But before you next slap on the soapy water and go to work with the scraper, be warned: recent years have seen a growth of interest in wallpaper, which is now deemed to reveal much about aspirations and social standing. On Saturday, the four-year-old and rapidly expanding Wallpaper History Society held a conference at the Victoria & Albert Museum to compare international collections.

They demonstrate how we continue to promote sexual stereotypes - Superman papers for boys' bedrooms, My Little Pony for girls'. Older wallpaper highlights how much life has changed. "There are designs dating from the turn of the century featuring jingoistic scenes from the Boer war," says Christine Woods, the curator at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester and one of the founders of the society. "It's unthinkable that we would put scenes from the Gulf war on our walls."

The earliest surviving scrap of wallpaper is black and white, was found in Christ's College, Cambridge, and has been dated back to 1509. In

## Wallpaper is on a roll



Christine Woods with a reproduction Edwardian paper

the second half of the 16th century, wallpaper probably became popular with merchants as a cheap alternative to aristocratic tapestries and silk damasks; since then, perceptions of it have swung wildly, from highly fashionable to vulgar.

ACCORDING to Anthony Wells-Cole, the curator of Temple Newsam House near Leeds, which has one of the best wallpaper collections in the country, flock wallpapers, imitating velvet, were hugely popular with the aristocracy by the mid-18th century. "Quite different from the electrostatically glued synthetic fibre flocks we know today." By the Regency period, wallpaper had become desperately modern: in an age of open fires and heavy fabrics that retained food smells, paper was considered the most hygienic thing for dining rooms and breakfast parlours. The fortunes of wallpaper in this century have been mixed,

and "very, very tied up with class", says Susannah Handley, a tutor at the Royal College of Art.

"During the Twenties there were lots of very bright, vulgar designs," says Mark Turner, the curator of the Silver Studios wallpaper collection. "Exotic Raj Mahal and Mediterranean scenes by moonlight. Educated people thought that was frightfully common."

In the Thirties nobody remotely fashionable would have been seen dead with patterned wallpaper. The wallpaper manufacturers made a concerted effort to turn such people away from functionalism after the second world war, launching an exhibition on VE Day of Cecil Beaton-designed wallpaper. "All the best designers and artists like Graham Sutherland got to work for wallpaper companies, producing radical designs," Mr Turner says. "The Fifties were rather like the late 19th century - lots of middle-class money, and good

designers working in the wallpaper industry."

Enthusiasm for wallpaper started to fall away in the Sixties and has been in decline ever since. Sandersons sold 12 million rolls in 1962, against one million today. Design historians despair when asked to comment on current wallpapers, using words such as "depressing" to describe the current passion for repro-everything. "I wish we could get away from all this William Morris," Ms Woods says.

The society, which includes non-professionals as well as curators, conservators, designers and those in the wallpaper trade among its 250 members, visits wallpaper printing works as well as holding seminars such as a forthcoming one on conservation techniques.

The wallpaper history craze may be moving in just as wallpaper is moving out. But we should not be surprised that it should be so tantalising: everyone remembers wallpaper from their childhood, often in wet, ruined ribbons on the floor.

GERALDINE BEDELL

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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

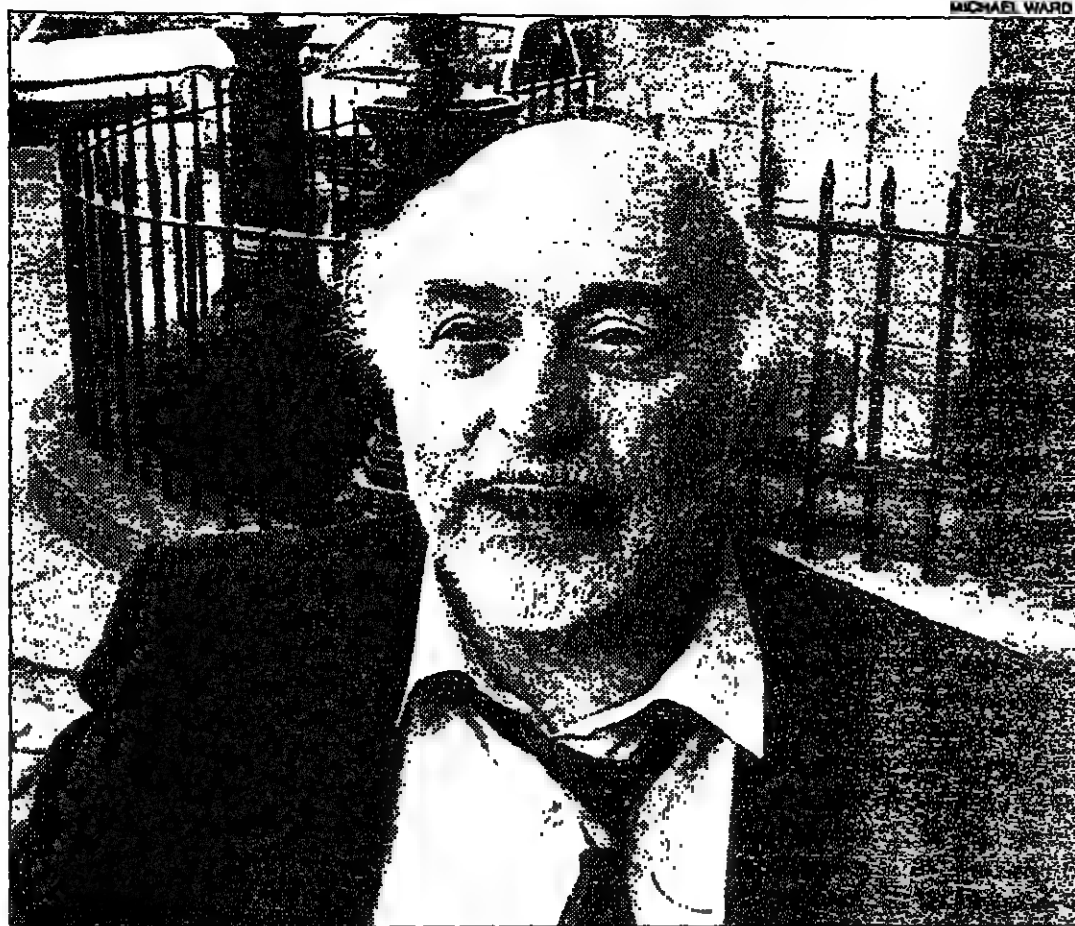
# Manoeuvres in the dark

The mystery of the new festival director will be unravelled shortly. Andrew Gibbon Williams follows the scent

Before asking "who's going to be the next director of the Edinburgh Festival?" the canny observer will surely ask "who on earth would want to be?" Only an arts administrator who thrives on strife could be comfortable in a job where, if you please half the people, you outrage the other half. Since the days of Lord Harewood in the early Sixties and his successor Peter Diamond in the Seventies, the directorship has been treated as an Aunt Sally by every interested party, from philistine local councillors to prejudiced arts cognoscenti.

The present director, Frank Dunlop, announced in January that this summer's festival would be his last. The manner of his leaving rather characterises what has since happened: it was preceded, in December, by an erroneous headline in *The Scotsman* that announced: "Dunlop dumped by festival". Dunlop threatened to sue the newspaper. He then offered to stay, provided that the Festival Council (the governing body) agreed to his three-year proposal to run the festival in conjunction with the soon-to-be refurbished Empire Theatre. He had long wanted to set up a resident "festival production company" that would obviate the necessity of the festival continually buying in touring productions. Dunlop's proposal was refused.

Since then the Festival Council has conducted its hunt for a successor in an atmosphere of intrigue that would not disgrace the Vatican. A "search committee" headed by Dr Nicholas Phillipson, the Edinburgh University historian, prepared a shortlist for the consideration of another sub-committee that will make the actual appointment. Understandably, out of consideration for their present careers, names of interviewees have been kept under wraps. But the decision not to divulge even the names of those doing the searching suggests that they are safeguarding their own



Stepping down as director: Frank Dunlop claims the Edinburgh Festival has been resurrected

reputations in case of a poor choice. However, one rumour that has slipped out is that the director's salary is to be raised considerably, perhaps to £80,000.

Controversy over the search for Dunlop's successor was ignited ten days ago when Edinburgh's home-grown impresario, Richard Demarco, brandished a curt, negative response to his application for the job at a press conference. Demarco has been the mainstay of many past festivals, promoting such artists as Joseph Beuys, the German avant-garde figure, and bringing theatre companies such as that of the Polish director Tadeusz Kantor to Britain.

In fact, Demarco's primary identification with the visual arts surely precluded him from serious consideration as a candidate to run a festival which has always had its main roots in music and drama. A more suitable candidate would be Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House. However, while admitting that he has been head-hunted for

the job, Isaacs has publicly declared his intention of staying on at Covent Garden.

Less well-known contenders include Brian McMaster, managing director of Welsh National Opera, and William Burdett-Coutts, now at Granada Television. The latter

**'The directorship has been treated as an Aunt Sally by every interested party'**

has persuasive qualifications, having run both Edinburgh's premier Fringe venue, the Assembly Rooms, and the rival west coast festival, Glasgow's Mayfest. Another contender with strong "local" roots is Ian Ritchie, managing director of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. It is believed

that Luke Rittner, former secretary-general of the Arts Council, applied; Joan Bakewell's name is whispered by some. But most informed opinion backs the director of the Brighton Festival, Gavin Henderson, who has run both the Dartington Summer School and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Whoever ends up in the hot seat, apart from having to battle Edinburgh District Council's Labour administration for funding, will also have to counter the same weary criticisms that have dogged both Dunlop and his predecessor, John Drummond. On the one hand, the festival is accused of being elitist: too much Brecht in German, too much Mozart in Swedish and Shakespeare in Japanese. On the other, it is suggested that the "high art" ethos of the original festival has been diluted; that the festival's musical integrity has been impaired by playing to the masses with such productions as Dunlop's own *Treasure Island*. However, it is the perceived lack of clout on the festival's

musical side that is expected to influence the choice of a new director. Here, Dunlop is vehement in defence of his own record. Over three-quarters of the festival budget is still spent on music and, in the year when he mounted *Nixon in China*, *Greek* and *The Cat Cinderella*, more new opera was staged in Edinburgh in three weeks than in the rest of Britain all year. His original intention, to right the balance between the two major constituents of the festival with his World Theatre Season, has only partially been fulfilled.

Dunlop dismisses nostalgic comparisons with the "good old days" — when the likes of Plácido Domingo, Daniel Barenboim and Bruno Walter made the trek north — as "codswallop". "The new stars are the likes of Simon Rattle and Esa-Pekka Salonen, and they come to Edinburgh," he says. "Last year, for heaven's sake, we had the Bolshoi Opera."

Dunlop does have a point. Since the festival's early days the musical world has changed radically. London's current pre-eminence as its capital ensures that, as far as the concert programme is concerned, Edinburgh will always be something of a side show. The huge fees that prevented Dunlop from bringing the Naples San Paolo Opera Company and Leonard Bernstein to Edinburgh are unlikely to be reduced. So, if the Festival Council is hoping that the new director will be able to revive the posh, select musical spirit of the original festivals, it will be disappointed.

This week, Dunlop unveils his final programme, doubtless conceived in the same spirit as those which he maintains have transformed a "moribund" festival into "once again, without doubt, the world's leading arts festival". The new director would be well advised not to depart too abruptly from a policy that has not only made the Edinburgh Festival exciting again but has also increased audiences enormously.

It had been planned to announce his successor immediately after Dunlop's London and Edinburgh press conferences on Wednesday. However, Dunlop argued against such timing, fearful that it would deflect from his announcement of this year's programme. Now it appears that the Festival Council will respect his wishes and delay its announcement.

DANCE

## Celebrating sex in a purple haze

Debra Craine on how the music of Sixties rock star Jimi Hendrix inspired a new ballet

When The Who sang the line "Hope I die before I get old" in 1965 few of the under-thirties listening could have taken the prospect seriously. But many of the rock stars who perpetuated the shooting-star ethos of the Sixties apparently did. Within a decade, some of the brightest among them had died young, victims of the drug-and-drink-inspired euphoria they helped to glamorise in their songs.

Choreographer William Tuckett has no time for such sentiments. He thinks the Sixties are overrated; he rejects the decade's inherent drug culture; and he resents the current mania for recycling memories of mods, hippies and the Age of Aquarius. Yet he has chosen the music of Jimi Hendrix — the archetypal chaotic Sixties rock icon — for his latest ballet. When the guitarist died in 1970 Tuckett was only one year old, so nostalgia is obviously not his motive. Neither does he want to celebrate the flamboyant lifestyle of the one-time "wild man of

ness for 11 dancers dressed, courtesy of Candida Cooke, in a Nineties Lycra-and-sequins version of Sixties fashion.

The ballet has no overt message, except perhaps that of having a good time for both participants and spectators. "It's like when you're in a club listening to rock music," is how Tuckett explains it. "And I don't mean current rock music. I mean rock music that works, not the acid house thing which I don't understand. When you let rip with that, it's great dancing to it; you can put a lot of energy and aggression into getting out whatever you've been feeling. I'm hoping that will transfer to an audience, so that by the time the ballet's over, the audience will feel about as tired as the dancers."

In the rarefied world of classical ballet, Tuckett is an unconventional choreographer. One of the least promising students at the Royal Ballet School, only his early choreographic inclinations ensured his place there. At Covent Garden, where he is in the corps de ballet, his position is unique: one day he could be on stage as the dancing equivalent of a spear-carrier, the next he could lead a rehearsal for his own ballet.

His latest piece is full of non-balletic references: American jazz, Broadway musicals. The title, *License My Roving Hands*, is a quote from "Elegie: On his Mistress Going to Bed" by John Donne. Tuckett likes Donne's elegies because "some of them have a cynicism and a kind of aggression that is couched in very sensuous, very beautiful lyrical writing." Aggression is the key to his new ballet: "the aggressive side of sexuality, but when aggression within sex is not an ugly thing."

If audiences expect a trip down memory lane, they will be disappointed. "I want to surprise them by giving them something that doesn't have a lot to do with that Sixties drug-induced, rose-coloured glasses effect. The Sixties were not just about drugs, that was not Hendrix's prime motive for music. He was a musician first, and this is wonderful music."

● *License My Roving Hands* opens on Wednesday at Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rossetti Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916)



Birmingham Royal Ballet: rocking to classic tracks

rock". What has attracted the 22-year-old British choreographer to Hendrix is simply his music.

Using classic Hendrix hits such as "Purple Haze" and "Woodoo Chile", Tuckett has created a new one-act ballet for Birmingham Royal Ballet, which receives its world premiere at Sadler's Wells on Wednesday. Entitled *License My Roving Hands*, it is a crashing celebration of sex and sensuous-

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES



# The ventriloquist's dummy who made it to stardom

Joe Haines, press secretary to Harold Wilson, reviews Bernard Ingham's account of his 11 turbulent years as Mrs Thatcher's ever-loyal spokesman

Political correspondents commonly suppose that the prime minister's press secretary labours in his ground-floor quarters at Downing Street in order to assist them in their inquiries. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The press secretary's role, more easily fulfilled under a Conservative government than a Labour one, is to use the press, not serve it, in the interests of him or her Upstairs. The occasional press secretary who did not understand that may have been more popular with his customers than his boss. The ideal relationship between a press secretary and the press is a harmonious hostility, not a cozy conspiracy.

Equally, the press secretary is not the person to serve the interests of the cabinet, as a whole or its individual members, unless those interests coincide with those of the prime minister, a conjunction perhaps rarer than is generally realised.

Publicly, the press secretary barks for the prime minister and has no other opinion, except in the privacy of his own home. However imposing his title and however grand the ultimate rewards, he is a ventriloquist's dummy and

it is vain to pretend otherwise. When Harold Wilson once expressed surprise that I had done something he wanted but with which I disagreed, I replied that on the day I was right more often than he, we should change places. Anyway, prime ministers place great store by loyalty.

Bernard Ingham (or Sir Bernard as we must call him since he succumbed so depressingly, as most Number 10 press secretaries do, to the empty allure of a title) was undoubtedly loyal to his mistress. But if all power corrupts, reflected power corrupts absolutely. To put it in a phrase which he himself might have used in his well-rehearsed parody of a bluff, blunt, no-nonsense, call-it-Yorkshireman (F.S. Trueman has a lot to answer for), he got too big for his clogs. He became a star in his own right.

When he used the mass meetings which the parliamentary Lobby has now become to degrade first the foreign secretary, Francis Pym ("Mona Lott"), and then the leader of the House of Commons, John Biffen ("semi-detached"), he went much further than an unelected government official has a right to go.



Ingham and Her Upstairs: many of the best hits finished on the Cabinet Office floor

His active role in the demolition of Michael Heseltine during the Westland affair ensured there could be no place for him working for a government of which the present environment secretary was a member.

That he now regrets, in his memoir of his 11 years at Downing Street, *Kill The Messenger*, the harm he did to Lord Pym and Mr Biffen might be of

little consolation to them. The role of a penitent JCB doesn't fit the eyebrows. His part in the Hollywood epic, *The Exile of Tarzan*, however, leaves him with different regrets. He is sorry that he got the blame.

Sir Bernard clears himself of any fault in leaking the notorious letter from the attorney-general, Sir Patrick Mayhew, which brought the Westland crisis to a

head. However, he unwittingly pleads guilty to a greater sin. He knew of the intention to leak the letter but he did not tell Mrs Thatcher. I find that so astonishing as to be almost incredible.

"Oh, by the way, prime minister, I ought to have told you that a row was about to burst which might force you out of office. I didn't tell you because I didn't think it was up to me and, anyway, I didn't want to

bother you." I bowdlerise his attitude, but that was a sacking offence if ever I read one.

Sir Bernard was a first-rate journalist, though the years of government seem to have crabbied his style and, more importantly, the journalist's natural impulse to tell all. According to *The Sunday Times* yesterday, the Cabinet Office deleted his references to the Thatcher cabinet's attitude towards Michael Heseltine in the final days of her leadership; Downing Street's fraught relationship with Sir Geoffrey Howe while he was still a member of the cabinet; and Mrs Thatcher's "stormy" relationship with the Germans, Italians and the European Community.

In the words of the old joke about circumlocution, it seems the best bit was thrown away. But that's the problem of submitting anything to the Cabinet Office, as the literary executors of Richard Crossman found out. And it was why, when I penned my account of my years in Sir Bernard's post, that I omitted to tell the cabinet secretary what I was doing. The Duke of Wellington's advice to Harriette Wilson to publish and be damned cannot be bettered, either for a Yorkshire lad in London or an author beckoned by the glittering prizes of the lecture tour.

But then those who lived by censorship must expect to suffer from it. Sir Bernard was a central figure in the machine serving a government which invoked the Official Secrets Act more often than all the governments between 1911 and 1979 put together. He also used his authority to buttress

the decaying Lobby system and what he described to me as his "friends" who composed it. The least convincing part of his book is the explanation that he only fell into the trap of rubbishing cabinet ministers because journalists kept asking questions and he had to answer them. There may be more forceful answers than No, but none so brief.

On the whole, the book doesn't meet the advanced billing. The chip on his shoulder burns brightly (Mrs Thatcher was "a bit classier than me") and his attacks on *The Guardian*, for which he once worked, and the political editor of *The Independent*, Tony Bevan ("my rule was never to dine with Mr Bevan"), contain the same level of obsession he attributes elsewhere to Mr Heseltine.

Sentences like, "I have no doubt that Mrs Thatcher shared with me the view that one of the greatest deprivations that could be inflicted upon a child today is to send him or her out into the world ill-educated and unprepared in the three Rs", might, unkindly, be put down to pomposity, though I prefer to think he wrote too much too quickly. But even my tender heart (despite an unflattering comparison of me to Minutemen) finds it hard to excuse a sentence like, "I think I can reasonably claim that the Falklands enhanced my reputation as a press secretary."

If it did, I regret I cannot say the same about *Kill The Messenger*. The author is now a Daily Mirror columnist.

## On the campaign trail to futility

The polling booth pests are no threat to democracy, writes Bernard Levin: they are pointless, like all that goes before

There was a letter in *The Times* the other day about the practice, long familiar at election time, of having party representatives at the very door of the polling station. In case you missed it, I take the liberty of reprinting it verbatim.

Sir, Your front page photograph showing two political party tellers in the doorway of an East-bourne polling station prompts me to question this particular election practice.

Am I alone in feeling uneasy and resentment that party representatives sit or stand so close to the ballot, challenging voters to give them their names and electoral register numbers? Many voters, unaware of tellers' status, think this is part of the official voting procedure.

Would it not be healthier for democracy if tellers were banned from polling stations and their precincts?

Our correspondent may rest easily, because I can assure him that the energies of the party workers are entirely useless. They are useless when they are listing declared supporters and opponents or collecting polling cards and card numbers; useless going out "on the knocker" (visiting the homes of voters who have promised to vote for their candidate but who have not yet done so, as recorded by the lack of a ticked-off polling number); useless in the solemn consulting of copies of the

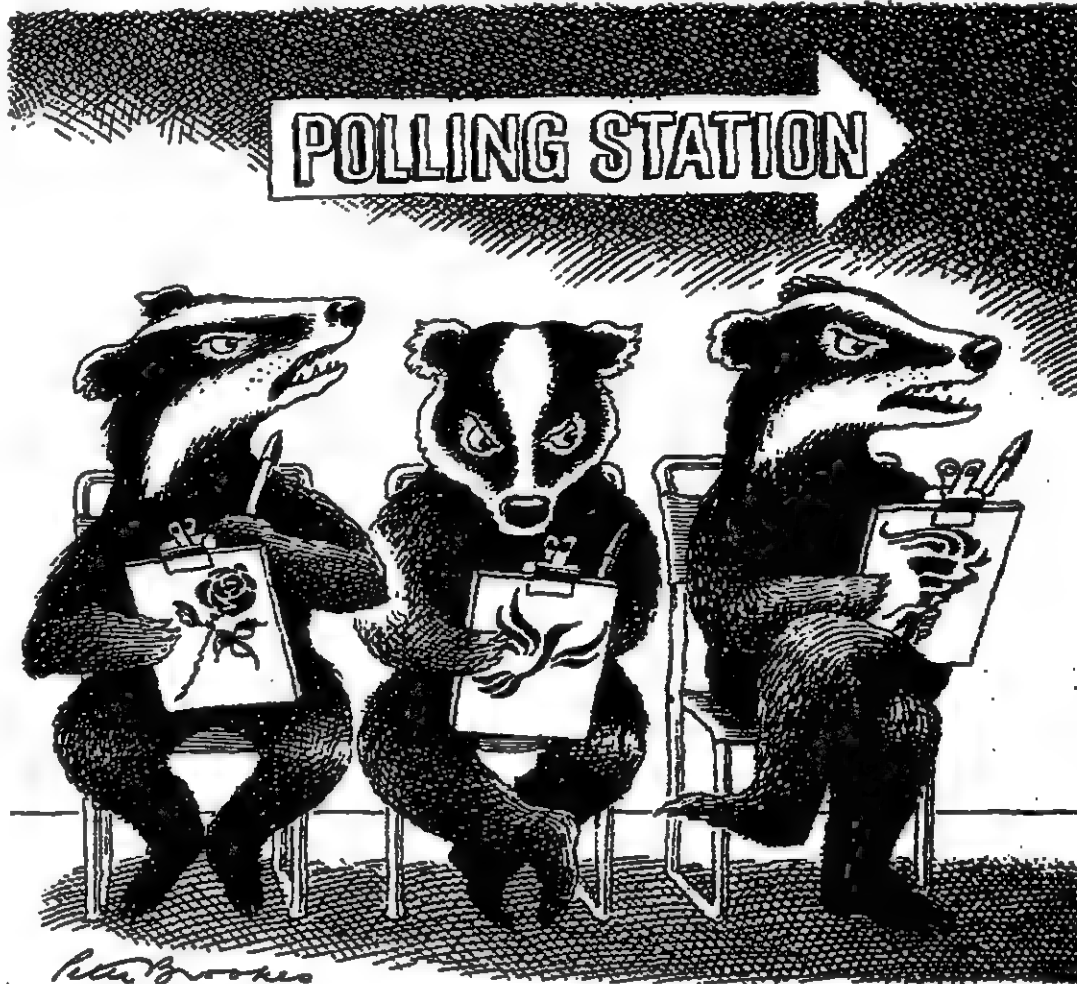
electoral register (these have to be paid for, which gives those like me tremendous fun) on which marks of one colour indicate supporters and those of another designate opponents, while a third is classified Don't Know and a fourth denotes either a Welsh Nationalist or Screaming Lord Sutch; useless in totting-up Yeas and Nays in the register - a practice which invariably shows that the tellers' candidate will romp home; useless in "leafleting", which consists of pushing through voters' letter-boxes leaflets of wonderful mendacity (the only effect being that 7.4 per cent of the leafleteers have their fingers trapped in the letter-box or bitten by the dog, or both); useless in appeals to the faithful to display in their windows party posters, not necessarily bearing the photograph of the candidate; thrice useless in going to election meetings where the candidate addresses no more than 27 people, 11 of whom are hecklers from the other side, useless in exhorting supporters to vote early (and, in the case of Northern Ireland, often - all a waste of time, all, all, all).

I speak from experience. In my early youth, I followed the flag; in my first years in journalism I looked into political matters among others; in one of my many heydays I was a parliamentary reporter; in my more settled years

I earned my bread by the analysis of politics and politicians; and in my present lofty eminence I am at last able to tell the truth.

The truth is that the whole paraphernalia of electioneering is a monstrous fraud. All the canvass returns are bogus, shamelessly faked to impress the candidate and headquarters; all the school-room election meetings are a waste of time, as every speaker knows that no voter changes allegiance while listening; all the leaflets put through the letter-boxes at such risk are thrown away; all the last-hour rat-rats ("wake Duncan with thy knocking - would thou couldst") are ignored, and all those clipboard-bearers at the door of the polling station, to which our correspondent takes exception, are wasting their time, be they double-dyed villains who clutch the emerging voter by the lapels and demand the colour of his politics in a menacing tone, or sweet old ladies who smile and curtsy as they politely ask; neither has any effect on the result, and they might as well have never turned up - unless when they stand proudly, ablaze with the party's rosettes, they are doing it to impress the members of their family.

Mind you, I recall an occasion when I was on my rounds as election day wore on, and stopped at a polling station where an MP



who was doing a stint at the notating of supporters had apparently got the process mixed up with the techniques of the Gestapo; as each voter emerged, he took a deep breath and shouted "Name and electoral number, name and electoral number..." Pericles, or even Charles James Fox, would have been intimidated, let alone your average voter. I was pleased to learn, the following day, that he had been defeated (the subsequently went bankrupt, too),

but my fidelity to the truth compels me to say that I do not believe it was his behaviour that cost him his seat, and not only because he was bullying people who had just voted and could not go back to the polling booth and change their preference.

The unexciting truth is that, for very many elections back - certainly every one since the second world war - the decision has been made by the voters, in person, before the dissolution. Hark: in no general election in

Britain for half a century has the tide that was flowing until the election was called been reversed before it had carried to victory the party that was originally riding it.

In every election, some leading political figure makes a frightful gaffe which is pounced upon by the other side (Edward Heath, for instance, made an amusingly contemptuous reference to Harold Wilson during the 1974 campaign, and noticed too late that the joke implied that Wilson would be back at No 10 after the voting, but it

makes no difference; another cabinet hopeful is found to be passionately advocating a policy he had violently denounced a month before, while another is caught out in a lie so monstrous that he has to declare that he was drunk when he told it, and yet another is found trouserless in the arms of three buxom ladies, each a different colour; no matter, *facta alba es*. No one changes voting intention because of such untoward events, and certainly no one does so because of the arguments on the hustings; the intention has already been fixed irrevocably in the voters' minds, and the amazing truth is that nobody changes allegiance during the campaign.

Why the decision is always made in advance (to a considerable extent unconsciously, I am sure), I do not know. Perhaps an image of a politician is stamped so clearly on its conduct that it can only be seen in that form; perhaps a leader makes an appearance so bold or so unpleasant that the trick is done on the instant; perhaps the luck of one side or the other can be seen to run out. Whatever the result, it is always decided before the clamour begins, and the canvassers, the poster-pasters, the tickers-off and the knockers-up, the schoolroom speakers and the letter-box leafleteers need not have bothered. The correspondent who started this will be happy to learn that the same is true of the doorway tellers who request or demand the voters' electoral numbers; if that knowledge does not give enough satisfaction to those who are badgering them, the badgerers can be told, in language as blunt as the voter wishes, to push off.

And while I am about it, I may as well recall that the parties' growing habit of enlisting show-business figures to root for them does nothing but deepen the contempt of the electorate for the parties and the maimers alike.

## ...and moreover MATTHEW PARRIS

Last Wednesday I was moonlighting on BBC Breakfast News, doing my occasional stint of writing and presenting a brisk jive through the morning papers. There were (cast your mind back) two big stories: a possible civil war in Yugoslavia and the aftermath of the cyclone in Bangladesh.

There was really no argument with the potential significance of the impasse in Yugoslavia, or with the sheer numbers of the dead in Bangladesh. Yet there was a problem with these stories. I cannot refer to it without the risk of giving offence, but risk it I shall, for my argument is serious. These stories lacked oomph.

You could tell there was a problem from the bewildering array of lead stories chosen by different editors. Only *The Daily Telegraph* chose Yugoslavia, a couple plumped for Bangladesh and a couple for British domestic political news. All the rest went for Madonna's new hair-do, or below-stairs tittle-tattle about a sacked butler suing for unfair dismissal. *The Daily Mail* offered a centre spread on how to marry a millionaire.

Why does Yugoslavia lack oomph? Forced to tackle the issue at all, many papers approached the legacy of Tito from the angle of how the British holidaymaker in Split might be affected. I genuinely believe that when it comes to interesting the British public in Yugoslavia's constituent republics, the main problem is that they have no internationally-known football teams. Is there a Serbia United? Before venturing into civil war, a

country should package its football teams properly, if Britons are to identify the combatants.

In Rwanda and Burundi the Hutu and the Tutsi have been slaughtering each other relentlessly for years without engaging our interest. I understand from friends in East Africa that bodies are still washing down the rivers to the Indian Ocean. Liberia is hell on earth, they say. The horrors of the regime in Fernando Po are said to have surpassed belief. But none commands the notice that Cameroon will be due, should anything go amiss for the fatherland of that plucky little World Cup team.

As for Bangladesh, it would be wrong to smile even wryly at the comparison between the packed House of Commons that heard Michael Heseltine deliver his statement about the threat to green sea turtles in the Gulf and the 17 MPs who stayed voluntarily to hear Lynda Chalker describe her efforts to get relief aid to that other, infinitely sadder, gulf. Yet those who did stay demanded a debate.

And here, for politicians and editors alike, is the great escape from the horns of the dilemma. You can have your debate, because hardly anyone needs to come. MPs' public insistence that "time be found" is quite consistent with their private regret that they can find none of their own. At some cost to parliamentary business, a debate is staged, a handful turn up, and *Hansard* reports it. At some cost in wasted newprint, newspapers can have their report. The treatment will be appropriately

grave, readers will skip it, and everyone will agree that the *Daily Beast* did not shrink its responsibilities. The article was there. They saw it.

They saw it. The hypocrisy of the British public, vastly exceeding that of the MPs at whom they so love to sneer, wants to see an awful lot. They want to see responsible newspaper articles, but they don't want to read them. They want to see the Church of England, but they don't want to go in. They want to see a domestic car industry, country bus services, and village groceries, but they drive to Tesco in their Toyotas. They want to see museums, art galleries and provincial theatre, and they know these things are threatened because there was something about it on TV.

The world of electronic simulation awaits, I believe, one last great invention: the technique of easily projecting three-dimensional images (holograms) into real-life situations.

Imagine... Hymns will pour from packed churches and galleries will abound, every village will have a shop, and on the half hour (or more frequently if required) huge phantasmagorical buses will lumber down every leafy rural lane. The Commons chamber will be packed to bursting as occasion renders appropriate.

And the electronic newspapers (piles of which will be projected into every newsagent's shop and displayed alongside the others) will be filled with harrowing articles about the poor, the slaughtered, and the drowned.

## Detecting the detectors

Sir David Wilson, director of the British Museum, has been discussing with museum chiefs from around the world ways to combat the multi-million pound trade in stolen art and archaeological treasures.

They met initially at a private seminar near Oxford last month organised by the Ditchley Foundation. Foreign delegates were particularly concerned about the plundering of ancient burial sites and castle and monastery grounds in Britain. "It is reaching epidemic proportions," said one. "There is no real control on the use of metal detectors; people are not required to report their finds and there is no effective licensing of excavation work. The lack of a national police force exacerbates the problem."

The museum directors also considered the illegal export of antiquities and urged governments to require vendors to provide auction houses with proof that items have been acquired legally.

Eamonn Kelly, assistant keeper of Dublin's National Museum, criticised "famous auctioneering firms" for offering items for sale without checking their origin. "Items of ancient gold and bronze from Ireland have turned up for auction in Britain. Cooperation from the auctioneering firms is not all it could be," he said.

Both Sotheby's and Christie's in London deny they would sell archaeological objects without checking their origin. A spokesman for Christie's says: "We take the greatest pains to check where works of art come from. In some cases we have alerted the police if we thought the object was not bona fide." And Sotheby's says: "We are the most open and public area of the market, enabling authorities in every country to check the items we sell."



When the Queen attends her first baseball match in Baltimore on Wednesday, the visiting Oakland team will be hoping she meets their colourful coach, Reggie Jackson. As a player Jackson was baseball's Ian Botham, but his one venture into acting might make a royal encounter somewhat strained. In the 1988 film *The Naked Gun* he played a crazed gunman who, under hypnosis, tries to assassinate... the Queen.

## Urban jungle

Devotees of Rudyard Kipling are incensed by the decision of a Labour-controlled council not to name a new road Rudyard Place on the grounds that he was racist and imperialist. The Kipling Society has accused Southwark, in south-east London, of tunnel vision.

Strangely, it was not Kipling's portrayals of India and his lesser breeds without the law that incensed councillor Jodie Clark. Kipling's great sin, in her estimation, was to reinforce the stereotypical picture of the Irish. Council leader Sally Keeble said it should not be difficult to come up with someone far more appropriate. Another name springs immediately to mind: although Winnie has a council building named after her there is, as yet, no Nelson Place.

Kipling scholar John Gross concedes that the author of *Kim* was not without prejudice. "Although very gifted, he was somewhat

guilty of what these councillors say, but it is ridiculous to go to the lengths of refusing to name a road after him."

## Ignorance is bliss

James Joyce would be amused by Dublin plans for the celebration of Bloomsday on June 16. To commemorate the day on which *Ulysses* is set, the Sisters of Mercy nuns have invited the Irish prime minister, Charles Haughey, to unveil a plaque on the wall of the Mater, their private hospital, on the site once occupied by No 7 Eccles Street - home of the fictional Molly Bloom and her husband Leopold.

Scenes from *Ulysses* will be re-enacted outside the hospital by actors in costume, including the arrival in Eccles Street of Blazes Boylan. Can the sisters be aware that Boylan knocked on the door of No 7 with forcible intent in mind, and with Molly Bloom indulged in one of the most famous adulterous scenes in English literature?

Senator David Norris, chairman of the Irish trustees of the International Joyce Foundation, wonders if any of the sisters have read *Ulysses*. "They may be aware of the book's significance in world literature," he says, "but they had 7 Eccles Street demolished to expand their hospital."



To encourage youngsters to take up engineering, the Earl of Halsbury, chancellor of Brunel University, is offering £250 to the first student from Henley Management College who emulates his childhood feat of swimming three miles from the college to a creek near his old home. How will engineering benefit? Only MBAs who go into engineering rather than a service industry are eligible.

## Musical chairs

The three vacancies at English National Opera - administrator, musical director and director of production - are causing a certain amount of angst among provincial companies as speculation grows over who will be heading for the big time.

There are three leading candidates to succeed Peter Tomlinson as administrator: Brian McMaster (Welsh National Opera), Richard Mantle (Scottish Opera) and Nicholas Payne (Opera North). Paul Findlay, number two to Jeremy Isaacs at Covent Garden, and Peter Hemmings, ex-Scottish Opera and now at Los Angeles, are also possibilities.

But as with any good opera plot, things are even more complicated than they first appear. Isaacs, it is said, wants to entice Payne to Covent Garden. That would almost certainly mean a move for Findlay, either in a straight swap with Opera North or across town to the ENO. Will it all be resolved before the fat lady stops singing?

Further support for Prince Charles's view on the value of learning Shakespeare as a child comes from writer John Mortimer. "My father made me act all the great scenes from when I was about four years old," he says. "As an only child it was a little difficult. I was obliged to duel with myself, make love to myself, pass myself the poisoned chalice and threaten to cut off a pound of my own flesh."

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## EMU BY STEALTH

Jacques Delors has added a one-sentence clause to his plan for European Monetary Union and appears at a stroke to have met John Major's objection to a new currency being "imposed" on Britain. Harmony has broken out between Brussels and London. British officials are even smugly hinting that the obstacles to Emu now lie in Paris and Rome. So has John Major's quiet diplomacy triumphed? Or has Britain fallen into another of M Delors' celebrated traps?

The idea that a Euro-currency would somehow be imposed on Britain against its wishes began as a figment of the Europhobes' imagination. It was then used by Europhiles to distract British attention from the full implications of greater European union. The option of moving on a "slower track" towards Emu was open to Britain even under Mrs Thatcher. Her difficulty was that she refused to run any risks with the EC. She wanted to stop the rush towards economic and political centralisation, believing quite simply that it was a mistake.

Mr Major and his Chancellor, Norman Lamont, used vigorously to share that view. How far they still do is unclear. Yes, the British parliament will be able to opt out of Emu in 1998 or whenever the move from ERM to currency (and thus economic) union finally takes place. But Britain is now to be an active participant in an unimpeded programme of centralisation. By the time the decision-date arrives, the pound will have been tied for years to the Deutschmark through the tightening disciplines of the ERM. Parliament will have been stripped of fiscal and financial potency in much the same way that local councils have been stripped under Mrs Thatcher and John Major. The institutions of economic sovereignty will have atrophied.

There are moments in such arcane arguments when the long term, not the short, must push its way to the fore. Mrs Thatcher felt that any step towards economic union would lead Europe, and with it Britain, inexorably down a road of corporatism, protectionism and socialism. Her capitulation, first on the Single European Act and then on ERM entry merely showed that Mrs Thatcher was not as all-powerful as her enemies supposed. These were curious backslidings from a sensibly cautious stance on European integration.

While there have been moves to free markets within the EC, the evidence of the past decade confirms Mrs Thatcher's long-term fear. The EC is against external free trade, for the labour protectionism of the social charter, against subsidiarity, for industrial cartels.

It is all this not by mistake but institutionally and instinctively. No observer of the EC's behaviour during the

recent Gatt round could be in much doubt about that. Of course there has always been a free trade strand running through the European movement, now vigorously pursued against all odds by Sir Leon Brittan's competition directorate. Of course there should be a deregulatory treaty between European states to promote the "1992" concept of freer markets, so long as they are free externally as well as internally. But that treaty is not the present Treaty of Rome, nor is it one that M Delors, a corporatist and a Eurochauvinist to his fingertips, would recognise.

The union of states in a strong federal economy is not a natural route to prosperity. States perform best when they compete. Herein lies the key to the revival of Eastern Europe, as it has to the rise of the micro-economies of the Far East. Co-operation between states is best when it is ad hoc, not systematised under a bureaucracy with power over government machines. Where that power includes resource transfers, through the tax and subsidy structure, it will be all but absolute, and ultimately unstable.

Germany is now enduring the agony of absorbing within a single currency union the former state of East Germany. This absorption is not just a matter of strokes of pens in federal offices. It deeply affects the politics and economics of Germany's components. The result is brittle, possibly explosive. Such unions are hard enough to manage where they are composed of culturally compatible entities. Where they are composed of heterogeneous states, as in Eastern and Western Europe, they should be approached with scepticism.

Mrs Thatcher wanted no part in this sort of European union, while willingly supporting steps towards freer trade. What Mr Major and Mr Lamont are now saying is that her view of Europe is better sustained by "participation" than by threatened vetoes. They are asking to be taken on trust as they step gingerly down the road against which their former mistress warned them.

There is much still to debate before taking these risks with national sovereignty. The states of Europe must still work out the economic pros and cons of specific currency zones, of differentiated fiscal and interest rate policies, of regional integration and subsidy. At present, they are simply drifting on down the line of least political resistance.

It is possible that over the next decade a more considered assessment of the proper role of a supranational European authority can be made. It is just possible that by "participating" now Britain can help that assessment. But this case needs to be argued from a position of strength rather than weakness. Mr Major has to say how far he really intends to go and why. He appears at present simply to have changed his mind.

## BAKER LOSES PATIENCE

Saudi Arabia's announcement that it is to participate in the proposed Middle East peace conference is the first small sign that something may come of the latest hectic round of diplomacy by the American Secretary of State, James Baker. The Saudis have promised that the Gulf Cooperation Council will send an observer to the talks. If Saudi Arabia, a guardian of Muslim orthodoxy, is willing to sit across the table from the Israelis, other Arab states are more likely to stop quibbling and do the same.

The most important Arab state yet to make a commitment is Syria. The Syrians say that the basis of any settlement must be the United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338. The UN should therefore be represented. But President Assad and Mr Baker both know that such a demand would kill any chance of useful talks. The Israelis have an aversion to the UN for its notorious equation of Zionism with racism.

The Israelis, however, have shown ever greater reluctance to accept even the spirit of the two UN resolutions, aimed as they are at assuring Israel security in return for land for the Palestinians. Yitzhak Shamir has again stated bluntly what many long suspected to be his government's real policy (one not shared with many other Israeli leaders): that it will never give up any of what he defines as the land of Israel, which includes the West Bank. Land will never be traded for peace. His defiance may reflect a widespread

feeling within his democratic constituency, but it is politically foolish.

Israel won world sympathy for its restraint during the Gulf war. That sympathy may fade as fast as Mr Baker's patience. It was provocative to announce new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories three weeks ago when the secretary of state was last in Jerusalem. It was equally tactless of Mr Shamir to tear up the agreement his foreign minister negotiated with Mr Baker only a few days later.

The Israelis may believe that with the Russians and the Americans now comparing notes in Cairo, the superpowers are ganging up on them to impose a settlement. It is more likely that Mr Baker and Mr Bessmertnykh, tired of the attempts by their quarrelsome client states to play Moscow off against Washington, are working out ways of depriving both Arabs and Israelis of any excuse for not sitting down to negotiate.

The Russians are about to satisfy Israel's demand for full diplomatic relations. The Americans have told the Arabs that they can have their face-saving international conference, but within weeks of its opening they must start negotiating directly with the Israelis. A joint Soviet-American initiative in the Middle East stands more chance of applying brutal but necessary pressure than the endless shuffling of frustrated western statesmen. Mr Baker seems ready to apply that pressure. Good.

## SIR BERNARD AND THE DRAGON

Why on earth did the Cabinet Office attempt to censor Sir Bernard Ingham's memoirs? Or did he and his publishers pay it to do so? Ever since the press, and later television, became important factors in politics, governments have both accepted the power of propaganda and yet been ever more disingenuous in handling it. The affair of Sir Bernard's memoirs shows that it is a mistake for governments to take their own mouthpiece too seriously. Will this doomed attempt to muzzle the former muzzler finally dispell the mystique which has come to surround the Downing Street press office?

There are official secrets. But the lobby system and its conduct are not among them. Given the fact that the House of Commons still likes to be informed before the press, the conventions of the lobby are probably the least bad method of keeping government propaganda within bounds. Yet Whitehall guards the information over which it enjoys a brief monopoly like a dim-witted dragon. Thanks to the kudos conferred by censorship, Sir Bernard's mutilated book will sell even better than the original one. The censored passages were always bound to find their way into print. Dragons always lose in the end.

A former Downing Street press secretary, retired and self-released from his vow of

silence, has thus put his gloss on the process by which the public is given a prime minister's view of the events of the day. In doing so, Sir Bernard undermines his once passionate belief in lobby convention. Secrecy only until a book contract is signed is not secrecy at all.

Sir Bernard's engaging cynicism is merely par for the course among those near the seat of power. Whether or not he was technically a "civil servant" is immaterial. He was a courtier next to the throne. His every word, his every grunt, even his silences betrayed a political animal. His memoirs have an authentic whiff of high political incense about them. Censored or not, he is naturally defending his mistress's reputation and his own.

Sir Bernard may have retired from the fray, but he has come out fighting in his book. He is setting the tone for what promises to be a new burst of post-Thatcherite political literature, as the lady's defenders take the ring after some ten years of knocking copy from those she sacked. Yesterday Sir Bernard told David Frost that he strongly advised Mrs Thatcher to do the same. "Highly therapeutic," he declared. If she takes his advice, will the Cabinet Office dare censor her?

## Voting reform and political stability

From Mr Patrick Cormack, MP for Staffordshire South (Conservative)

Sir, Why do so many people persist in pretending that the only alternative to our present electoral system is proportional representation in one of its many unsatisfactory manifestations? It is perfectly possible to have electoral reform without having PR and plunging the country into a possibly unending cycle of unsatisfactory minority administrations.

The virtual certainty of political stability is not something we should lightly sacrifice at the end of the 20th century, as anyone who lived in postwar France (or anyone who lives in Italy today) would affirm.

There is a solution which would remove the anomalies and unfairness of our present system without transforming or distorting its basic structure and we need only to look to France to find a version of it. I refer to the two-round election system.

Anyone who received 50 per cent plus one on polling day would automatically be returned to Parliament. But if there was no clear winner the two who polled the most votes would go forward to a second round a week later. During that week the electors would have a chance to reflect upon the performance of the parties in the first round and the relative merits and strengths of the two prospective members of Parliament on offer, and vote accordingly.

There would be no real threat of a proliferation of minority parties merely because they had scraped up a handful of votes in most constituencies. There would be no need for a ballot paper like a football pool coupon and no need for electors to have to decide on second preferences. Most important, the constituency system would be preserved intact and the merits of the rival candidates would be taken much more carefully into account.

It is a system which ought to commend itself to any fair-minded opponent of the present system and to any fair-minded opponent of PR as well.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK CORMACK,  
House of Commons.  
May 10.

From Mr Dugald M. MacInnes

Sir, I had hardly thought to read such an illiberal leader in your columns (May 6). If the 1977-8 Lib-Lab pact had been based on sounder principles, such as the knowledge that the third party might have remained a third "force" after a general election fought on PR, then the indecisive government to which you refer need not have occurred. Being at the mercy of such smaller parties has not deterred effective

government in Germany, nor economic growth in Italy, despite the number of governments there since 1945.

Your leader ignores the undemocratic results of recent elections, 1983 being the prime example. The second party achieved 27.6 per cent of the total vote and 209 seats, the third party 25.4 per cent and 23 seats. What possible justification is there for continuing that anomaly?

Surely those who voted Alliance did so hoping to moderate either Labour or Conservative policies. At best they felt ignored; at worst disfranchised. And before anyone dismisses it as a protest vote, and not all of it could have been, should not the right to protest effectively be recognised through the ballot box?

You refer to the interest of the two main parties with scant regard for the electorate. If voters do not want a hung Parliament they will not vote for the third party. Indeed, in Germany, the FDP has failed in some Länder to pass the 5 per cent hurdle and therefore lost all representation from the common list. Some acknowledgement of the need for a fairer system, perhaps with a higher blocking hurdle figure, would have made your leader more credible.

Yours faithfully,  
DUGALD M. MACINNES,  
231 Stophende Road, SW6.  
May 9.

From Professor Tony Honore, QC, FBA

Sir, You dismiss too rapidly Mr Ashdown's announced intention, should there be a hung Parliament, to insist on electoral reform as a condition of support.

The last 20 years have shown that about a fifth of the electorate consistently supports a centre party. If that body of opinion is to be properly represented at the centre, as it is to some extent in local government, it must be right for the leader of the centre, at present Mr Ashdown, to follow the strategy he proposes. What alternative is more likely to bring about a change?

Certainly the odds are against a hung Parliament after the next election and also against the main parties agreeing to proportional representation. But neither is impossible, especially if Labour again fails to secure a majority on its own.

The case against change is not as strong as it may seem. Two-party or coalition government in a context of proportional representation would not be like similar past experiments when the parties were expecting a rapid return to one-party administration.

Yours sincerely,  
TONY HONORE,  
94c Banbury Road, Oxford.  
May 6.

## Election tellers

From Mr and Mrs J. C. Elliott

Sir, Mr Pittman (May 8) is certainly not the only one to be disturbed by the proximity of party tellers to the polling stations. We have complained of this locally several times, but the council officer in charge continues to allow the practice. We always ignore the tellers, but on some occasions this has provoked an indignant reaction.

A large notice should make it quite clear that the tellers represent political parties and that they have no official connection with the poll. The tellers should also be out of earshot of conversations between voters and poll officials which is not the case in our polling station.

Yours truly,  
J. C. ELLIOTT,  
P. C. ELLIOTT,  
Little Tregunwith, Mylor,  
Falmouth, Cornwall.  
May 8.

From Mr Jason J. Bishop

Sir, As an election teller I do not agree with Mr Pittman who said that it is harmful to democracy. The process is used by all political parties to check whether known supporters of the party have voted.

## Capping councils

From Mr Robert Ribeiro

Sir, Thousands of tax payers have regarded rate-capping or tax-capping as their only protection against the total disregard shown towards them by high-spending councils, and yet you decide this as "dirigiste" and as centralism (leading article, May 2).

There is no evidence that high spending by labour councils induces the voters to drive them out of office. Local democracy, whatever it may mean, is simply not responsive to the level of local taxation in those areas where the number of non-payers is relatively high in relation to the number of payers.

It really is as simple as that, and capping (which contrary to your assertion does still allow for local variations in tax) is a practical solution to what would otherwise be a matter of genuine unfairness and hardship.

Could we please have a moratorium upon the use of the word "accountability", so much beloved of theorists, and so hollow to those who live in areas such as Greenwich, Lambeth, Hackney and Haringey?

Capping may offend against your notions of political purity but without it residents of those areas would be faced with two choices: pay or get out.

Yours faithfully,  
R. RIBEIRO,  
11a St Germans Place,  
Blackheath, SE3.  
May 3.

Banning tellers would be more harmful to democracy as it would prevent the political parties from canvassing for extra support on election day.

Surely holding a record of who has voted is not as bad as opinion pollsters who ask questions about how you have voted as well. Does Mr Pittman advocate banning these also?

Yours faithfully,  
J. J. BISHOP,  
105 Weaver Street,  
Winsford, Cheshire.

From the Chief Executive of North Warwickshire Borough Council

Sir, Mr Pittman may be somewhat reassured that the returning officers professional society (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) is in correspondence with the Home Office regarding a code of guidance to be produced for the conduct of tellers. Hopefully, it will be produced in the near future and in time for the next general election.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MONKS, Chief Executive,  
North Warwickshire Borough Council,  
Old Bank House, 129 Long Street,  
Atherstone, Warwickshire.  
May 10.

## Disapproval in church

From Mr L. D. Remmett-Peay

Sir, Your recent correspondence (April 24, May 1, 9) reminds me of the reply given in the early 1930s by an Anglo-Catholic rector to one who ventured to complain that he had not understood a service in Latin: "The worship was not offered to you. It was offered to Almighty God, and there has been no complaint from that quarter."

Yours faithfully,  
L. D. REMMETT-PEAY,  
The East India Club,  
16 St James's Square, SW1.

## The Bard and Bohemia

From Sir Peter Thorne

Sir, I think that the third leader on May 7 was a trifle unfair about Shakespeare's reference to the coast of Bohemia. There was in fact in the Middle Ages a close connection between Bohemia and a thriving seaport — the East Prussian town of Königsberg — which owed its origins to King Ottakar II of Bohemia.

Ottakar had led two expeditions against the (heathen) Prussians and in 1255 he advised the Teutonic Order to build a fortified town at what was subsequently named Königsberg in his honour.

It later became the residence of the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order, and many of those crusaders, such as Chaucer's Knight and the future King Henry IV, who preferred to direct their activity against the pagans in the present-day Baltic states, would have known that town

## Reasons behind a plea for patients

From the Dean of St Mary's Hospital Medical School

Sir, May I set in context your accurate report (May 6) based on my contribution to the *St Mary's Gazette* about medical services.

University teaching hospitals, especially one like St Mary's, Paddington, which serves a large local population, have plenty of patients wanting to come in at present. The problem is that facilities are closed for lack of funds and few but emergencies can be seen. The pattern of conditions treated thus quickly become distorted. Routine patients are delayed and the broadly balanced service appropriate to teaching and clinical research is disrupted.

The Universities Funding Council medical committee announced (report, May 7) that after meeting with university and NHS officers from every medical school and associated health district in the country, it was concerned that the new NHS funding arrangements would "make it very difficult for some teaching hospitals in larger conurbations to remain financially viable".

These are real, responsible and carefully considered concerns which cannot lightly be dismissed by the junior minister at the Department of Health as "scaremongering" by people opposed to NHS reform. Nor can the difficulties foreseen be justified as the outcome of patients and doctors taking their custom elsewhere.

The point in my tongue-in-cheek suggestion that our graduates might like to send us more patients was to show that, contrary to the intention of the NHS bill, neither patients nor their GPs (unless budget holders) are free to choose.

Greater accountability is essential at all levels of the system. Audit of management, practice and patient satisfaction; measures to define and measure quality of care; partnership between doctors and managers; all those are welcome and necessary. On the other hand, the idea that an internal market of health care will do anything more than buy cheaper care needs very careful scrutiny.

Main university teaching hospitals are expensive but let us ask for a national audit to ascertain whether, taking account of their service to patients, their central long-term role in educating successive generations of doctors for the NHS and their key position in clinical research, both in hospital and community, they are good value for money.

London is a special problem, a major headache for any government. The local population, its doctors and London University are entitled to be concerned in the face of a Department of Health prediction, leaked to the press last autumn and never denied, that hospital services in inner London are likely to fall by between 20 per cent and 30 per cent as a result of patients being diverted to cheaper hospitals on the edge of London because of the internal market. One or more of the

main university hospitals is expected to become insolvent.

A great deal of well justified rationalisation has taken place in the last decade both in the NHS and in the university. More may be necessary. If so, it is a matter of such great local and national importance as to justify a royal commission to set out the evidence and to give impartial advice as to what in the national interest should be done.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER RICHARDS, Dean,  
St Mary's Hospital Medical School,  
Norfolk Place, W2.  
May 9.

From the Dean of St George's Hospital Medical School

Sir, Professor Richards's plea to his graduates is a laudable attempt to safeguard the clinical teaching and research base of St Mary's Hospital, provided such referrals are always made in the best interest of the patients.

Should not the general manager of St Mary's explore with his dean the option that the charges for such extra-contractual referrals are set against the service increment for teaching and research? After all, this allowance is paid to the hospital by the regional health authority on the advice of the medical school in order to provide for the added cost of teaching and research.

If the National Health Service reforms genuinely enable changes in medical practice and improvements in patient care, then medical educationists should also concentrate on the requirements for curricular change rather than being too concerned about changes in patient flows.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM ASSCHER, Dean,  
St George's Hospital Medical School,  
Cranmer Terrace, SW17.  
May 7.

From Dr Kenneth Mole

Sir, In the days before the National Health Service, the great specialists honed their expertise in the voluntary wards of the 12 London teaching hospitals and at the same time taught students. Known as "honorarys", they built up their own and their hospitals' finances and glory from the patients referred to them by their devoted ex-students, widely distributed across a country poor in local specialist skills.

Now, the country has hospitals providing first-rate specialist services and research opportunities and at a value for money London can no longer attain. London today is expensive over-equipped with great teaching hospitals but, if only the best of them are to survive, it matters not if Professor Richards's plea is inspired more by nostalgia or tribal loyalty than by accountability.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH MOLE,  
The School,  
Buckhorn Weston,  
Gillingham, Dorset.  
May 6.

## Preparing for disasters

From Mr K. H. Cooper

Sir, Brigadier O'Brien's letter (May 8) on the need for a more effective response to a major disaster in this country is remarkably apposite.

In June 1989 the then Home Secretary instituted a review of disaster planning in peacetime to consider the possibility of adopting a more coherent approach to the protection of the public.

Kenneth Baker, the present Home Secretary, has recently listened sympathetically to urgent representations from a wide spectrum of emergency planners on this subject which included the need for a new Civil Protection Act to incorporate all the emergency planning responsibilities of local authorities in peace and war and to provide funding which at present is available only for civil defence.

It is a matter for grave public concern that whereas local authorities have a legal duty to prepare for war under existing civil defence legislation they have at present no legal duty to prepare for the major peacetime disasters which occur with all too hideous and unpredictable frequency.

Yours faithfully,  
K. H. COOPER,  
(Vice-Chairman,  
National Council for  
Civil Protection),  
13 The Avenue,  
West Wickham, Kent.  
May 8.

and probably of its history. Bohemian influence, if not Bohemian territories, certainly extended to the Baltic coast.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER F. THORNE,  
23 Rottevor Road, SW6.  
May 10.

From Mr Carl O. Keil

Sir, Some day a headline will emblazon the fact that Shakespeare knew his historical geography. And instead of pillorying him, we might agree that Bohemia did have a coast.

During the turbulent period of medieval wars and dynastic manipulations Premysl Ottakar II extended his Bohemian domain to include Istria on the Adriatic.

Yours truly,  
C. O. KEIL,  
34d The Limes,  
Linden Gardens, W2.  
May 7.

## Festival anniversary

From Mr John Greatrex

Sir, With reference to your leading article of May 8, "Festive millennium", may I suggest that architecturally a fitting symbol for any future possible Great British Exhibition in the year 2001, or before, would be a reconstruction of the 1851 Great Exhibition building.

First, it was basically a large greenhouse, and a symbolic greenhouse would be most appropriate for this or any other environmentally aware decade.

Secondly, compared to much of the "brutalist stained concrete" which now adorns much of the South Bank, it was a work of art.

Thirdly, it would be far less expensive to construct than most other buildings being in essence a construction kit of prefabricated sections.

Fourthly, it already appears as the symbolic exhibition building on Spanish stamps for next year's Expo '92 in Seville.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN GREATREX,  
22 Knight Close,  
Deeping St James,  
Lincolnshire.  
May 8.

## Milestone

From Mr P. G. Newman

Sir, Surely the best thing before sliced bread (Mrs Winty M. Thornton's letter, May 8) was the paper clip.

What else could lay claim to such a marked influence on our lives, or have saved so many thumbs from being pricked by the little pins we used to use?

Yours etc.,  
P. G. NEWMAN,  
Oakhill Cottage,  
Moons Hill,  
Frensham, Surrey.  
May 8.

From Mr Jonathan Ray

Sir, The best thing before sliced bread?

Presumably the wheel.

Yours etc.,  
JONATHAN RAY,  
Ki Albany,  
Piccadilly, W1.  
May 10.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).





## COURT CIRCULAR

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

May 11: The Prince of Wales, Patron, Spinal Injuries Association, this morning attended the National Final of the Heinz Schools Marathon Relay at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham and was received by Colonel A. Fender (Deputy Lieutenant of the County of West Midlands).

This afternoon Her Royal Highness, Colonel in Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, visited 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and attended a Regimental Tattoo at Drayton Manor, Fun Park, Drayton Manor, Tamworth, and was received by Colonel F. James (Vice Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire).

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

May 12: The Prince of Wales, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this afternoon visited the "Longest Balloon Fiesta" at Longleat House, Warminster, Wiltshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire (Field Marshal Sir Roland Gifford).

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

## The Duchess of Gloucester

will visit RAF St Mawgan at 11.30. The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Newbury Spring Festival, will attend the Paul Tortelier memorial concert at the Church of St Nicolas, Newbury, at 7.30.

## Church news

**Appointments**  
The Rev Canon J. Macdonald, Minister of St. Andrew's, will officiate at the wedding of Miss Catherine Mary Halliday, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Halliday, of Whitton Hall, Westbury, to Mr J. Barnett, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Grace Berrow, Louise Copping, Alice Lindsay, and Mrs. M. E. Hogan.

## Marriages

The Hon V.G. Boscawen and Miss C.M. Halliday. The marriage took place on Saturday at St. Mary's, Westbury, Shropshire, of the Hon Vere George Boscawen, youngest son of Viscount Viscountess Falmouth, of Regent House, London, and Miss Catherine Mary Halliday, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Halliday, of Whitton Hall, Westbury. The Rev J. Barnett officiated.

## The Hon V.G. Boscawen

and Miss C.M. Halliday. The marriage took place on Saturday at St. Mary's, Westbury, Shropshire, of the Hon Vere George Boscawen, youngest son of Viscount Viscountess Falmouth, of Regent House, London, and Miss Catherine Mary Halliday, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Halliday, of Whitton Hall, Westbury. The Rev J. Barnett officiated.

## Forthcoming marriages

J.L.W. Barr and Miss A.M. Atcherley. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr Malcolm Barr, of Flood Street, SW3, and Miss Susanna Barr, of Vicarage Crescent, SW11, and Alexandra, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Denison Atcherley, of Chobham, Surrey.

## J.L.W. Barr

and Miss A.M. Atcherley. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr Malcolm Barr, of Flood Street, SW3, and Miss Susanna Barr, of Vicarage Crescent, SW11, and Alexandra, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Denison Atcherley, of Chobham, Surrey.

## OBITUARIES

## HAROLD SALISBURY

Harold Salisbury, police officer, died on May 6 aged 76. He was born on March 30, 1915.

HAROLD Salisbury was a policeman who made his mark in at least two respects: by introducing the "mobile doctor" concept to the police emergency services in Britain and by playing a pivotal role in an epic political scandal in Australia which resulted in him being sacked as Police Commissioner of South Australia. The disclosure that the state police force had a special branch which had built up secret dossiers on suspected subversives stirred concern throughout Australia and led to the destruction of the files and the disbanding of the special branch as well as the sacking of Salisbury. The Salisbury Affair, as it became known, inspired a best-selling book and is believed to have contributed to the downfall of Don Dunstan, the South Australia premier, and later the Labour government.

Born in Worcestershire, Harold Hubert Salisbury began his career in 1935 as a constable with London's Metropolitan Police. He entered the police college at Hendon in 1938 and was promoted to junior station inspector before joining the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm and piloting Seafrigate fighters with the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific fleets.

After the war he returned to the Metropolitan Police, climbing steadily through the ranks until 1953 when he left London to take the post of Assistant Chief Constable of the Yorkshire North Riding force. He was made Chief Constable in 1965 and when in 1968 three Yorkshire police forces were amalgamated in the York and North-East Yorkshire Police he was appointed Chief Constable.

Coming from the urban environs of London, Salisbury quickly noted that in the mostly rural Ridings of Yorkshire, motor accidents were frequently happening in remote areas where victims suffered from relatively long delays in receiving medical attention. To combat this he took a lead in instituting a system under which the doctors were on call in readiness to accompany police to the scene of accidents, a forerunner of the paramedics system which is now practised throughout the country. In 1970 Salisbury won the Queen's



Police Medal for distinguished service. As a chief constable he adopted a broadly traditional approach to law and order, campaigning for more police manpower and a return to stiffer penalties to instil greater respect among young people for authority and the law. It was the time of student protest worldwide and subversive groups such as the Angry Brigade, and Salisbury took the view that an insidious minority were engaged in a general assault on democracy and its social and constitutional processes.

In view of these attitudes it was perhaps surprising that Don Dunstan, the youthful and charismatic Labour premier of South Australia, selected Salisbury, who was aged 62, to become head of the police force in

ing against Australia's participation alongside America in the Vietnam war. Under the direction of Salisbury's predecessor, the police special branch had responded by compiling secret dossiers on anti-war protesters and other suspected dissidents, including trade unionists, clergymen and members of the judiciary. It became clear later that on seven occasions between 1975 and 1977 the government sought information from Salisbury on the extent and nature of the special branch activities. Salisbury refused to provide details of the dossiers, claiming later that his responsibility was to the Crown rather than to elected politicians.

When a newspaper exposed the existence of the dossiers the government was forced to appoint a judicial inquiry into the activities of the special branch. Its findings said, in part, that the special branch criteria for investigating people "were based... on the unreasoned assumption that any persons who thought or acted less conservatively than suited the security forces were likely to be potential dangers to the security of the nation."

The judge said that material which he knew to be inaccurate, sometimes scandalously inaccurate, appeared in some dossiers. Salisbury was asked to resign but refused and was sacked. He argued that the state had the right to compile information on suspected subversives.

"If a chap doesn't like a file being kept on him, there's usually a very good reason... and that's just the kind of chap we should be keeping files on," he said. There were clearly many in South Australia who agreed with him. His sacking evoked a huge public protest. An estimated 10,000 people demonstrated in the centre of Adelaide and the public outcry forced the government to appoint a Royal Commission of inquiry.

The Commission vindicated the government, concluding that Salisbury's replies on the workings of the special branch were "inaccurate by omission." His claim that he was responsible to the Crown rather than the elected government showed a lack of understanding of the constitutional system.

Harold Salisbury retired to Britain. He is survived by his wife Joan and two daughters.

## FRIEDELIND WAGNER

Friedelind Wagner, granddaughter of Richard Wagner, died on May 8 in the Ruhrland aged 73. She was born at Bayreuth in 1918.

FRIEDELIND Wagner was the maverick among the grandchildren of the composer, virulently anti-Nazi, pro-American and often critical of what went on at Bayreuth. She had been brought up in idyllic circumstances at Bayreuth, daughter of Siegfried Wagner, whom she so resembled in looks (they both inherited the great Wagner's profile). He died in 1930, the very year Toscanini went to conduct at Bayreuth. The 12-year-old Friedelind fell under his spell. She once said: "It was as if in the hour of my father's death, heaven sent me another."

In 1948 she created something of a furor with her book *The Royal Family of Bayreuth* in which she told of her gradual disillusionment with the whole pre-war set-up there. She grew to loathe Hitler whom her English mother Winifred adored, and spent long periods away from home. In 1939 she fled to Lucerne and lived with her aunts who were still resident at Tribschen. Wagner's old house. After the outbreak of war, Hitler and her mother demanded that she return to Germany, making all kinds of threats against her. She defied them all and severed all links with Germany. The British journalist Beverley Baxter got her a visa to come to Britain during the war, but only to exploit her news value. She was furious and they parted acrimoniously. She was interned in the Isle of Man, but Toscanini came to her rescue, pretending he had a contract for her to sing with him in Buenos Aires. That did the trick. After singing there in his choir, she finally arrived in New York in 1941 to find that Churchill himself had intervened to get her a berth on a ship.

It was then that she wrote her book and studied stage craft at Columbia University. She produced *Tristan and Isolde* with her own company in 1946, the settings by her brother, the then unknown Wieland Wagner. He invited her back to Bayreuth in 1953 when she was greeted with cries of "Dis Mausi", her nickname of old, by other members of the family. In 1959 she began her masterclasses there, which went on until Wieland's untimely death in 1966. She then produced a *Lohengrin* at Bayreuth.

In spite of her various activities, she never found a niche in life, perhaps over-awed — as so many sons of the Wagner family are — by the immense shadow of the great man himself. In 1972 she gave some masterclasses in this country. In 1973 she was instrumental in putting on a concert performance of her father Siegfried's opera *Der Friedensengel*. She lived for while in a mansion in Stockton-on-Tees where she set up her master-classes. The venture was short-lived.

## EDWARD THOMPSON

Edward Thompson, Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford, died on May 7 aged 72. He was born on May 5, 1919.

EDWARD Thompson, mathematics tutor and for 16 years Estates Bureau of Jesus College, Oxford, made important contributions to the post-war development of the college, to mathematics in Oxford, and to university administration.

He went to New College as a Scholar in 1937, won a junior mathematical scholarship in his first year and graduated with a first in 1940. He was elected to a Harmsworth senior scholarship at Merton, but after one term he joined the operational intelligence section of the Foreign Office at Bletchley, where his remarkable mathematical ability, ingenuity, and creativity made an outstanding

contribution. In 1945 he was elected to an official fellowship at Jesus College, to which he then devoted his active life. His elder brother Jack was also a distinguished Oxford mathematician.

At the time of his election the college was beginning to expand from its pre-war size and affiliations, and as the college's first Tutor for Admissions in 1947 he strengthened its admissions policy and procedures. But his most important contribution was as Estates Bureau from 1962 to 1978. He continued the work of his predecessor, J. N. L. Baker, in insubordinating and increasing the endowment income, keeping always in mind the objective of enabling the college to expand its educational provision. By this time the number of undergraduates and graduates had increased from some 200 in early post-war years to 349 in 1969, and more accommodation and an increased tutorial staff were badly needed. The gradual improvement in the financial position, together with the generosity of old members, enabled both to be provided.

A major contribution was made by the Old Members' Building, built for the Quater Centenary celebrations in 1971. After that it was necessary to find space outside the confines of the historic site, and Thompson had already purchased freeholds on the Woodstock Road at a time when there was no prospect of being able to finance an extension. The land was therefore there when Edwin Stevens offered to assist, and Stevens Close provided attractive accommodation for 100 junior members. Subsequent building will shortly enable all members to be offered

College-controlled accommodation throughout their period of residence — an enviable situation.

Thompson was a strong supporter of women's education and of state education and his advocacy was a powerful factor in the decision to become one of the first five men's colleges ("The Jesus Five") to admit women. In 1973 to 1977, when the Principal, Sir John Habakkuk, was vice-chancellor, Edward's wise counsel gave invaluable support to the vice-principal.

He was a very influential member of the Mathematics Faculty and was chairman of a committee which introduced the first major revision of the syllabus for a decade. He had a deep knowledge of classical geometry and his effectiveness as a tutor is evidenced by the number of former distinguished pupils. He was an

editor of the *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society* 1951-1957, and of the *Quarterly Journal of Mathematics* 1959-1974. He served as Junior Proctor, 1954-1955; when he introduced much-needed reforms in the conduct of examinations, and he was on the general board, 1969-1973. He was a member of the Richards Committee set up by council to make recommendations concerning college finances.

Thompson was a man of great integrity and tenacity, rather shy and retiring by nature but always very approachable, kind and courteous. He leaves a widow, Bridget (herself a mathematician), two sons (both mathematicians), one of whom, Elizabeth, is professor of statistics in the University of Washington, Seattle.

## Sir Nevill Mott

## Christianity without miracles?

I WAS not brought up in any religious faith. My parents, from Church of England families, found little to satisfy them in available religious teaching. But when I was professor of physics at Cambridge, about 1960, I was asked by the Vicar of the University Church, Mervyn Stockwood, to contribute to a series of talks on science and religion. To prepare for this talk, reproduced in my autobiography (*A Life in Science*, Taylor & Francis, 1986), I read some theology and was fascinated by this Queen of the Sciences so utterly different from the Natural Sciences in which I had made my career. A religious truth, it seemed to me, was a doctrine held by out ancestors and therefore worthy of respect; even if I found it unsatisfying, I could not believe that all wisdom could be ascribed to our generation, with its historical criticism, molecular biology and quantum mechanics. At the same time, I had to examine each dogma to see if, for me, it had any meaning, and if so whether it helped me in my approach to God.

This word, God, which lies at the centre of religion, must have different meaning to every one of us. For me, a professional scientist, I do not think that science will ever explain human consciousness or free will, but I want to believe that there is something beyond atoms and molecules, something that gives our lives a meaning. This is what I call God. I believe this because I want to, not because of any proof. As a consequence, I found that I wanted to identify myself with Christianity and attend church services. This is

perly through a sense of history.

As a student, cycling through the Norfolk countryside studded with churches built in the age of faith, I could not believe that those who created all this beauty were totally wrong. So much of our art, literature and what makes us different from other cultures is based on Christianity. I am impressed by a quotation from Dr. Alister McGrath's *Bampton Lectures*, published under the title "The Genesis of Doctrine" (Oxford, 1990), who writes "that it is only by standing within the Christian tradition that the full depth and meaning of its symbols and doctrines can be understood." I too wanted to be within that tradition.

But to be part of it, what must we believe? What about miracles? Clearly if God is an omnipotent being, as we assert in our Church Service, He could break the Laws of Nature, if He so wished. But I could not worship a God who would want to, especially a miracle such as the Virgin Birth, which seems to me to devalue the way women and men — and indeed much of creation — produce their young. God, it seems to me, acts through his words to men and women, through the Bible, through teachers with insight in all faiths, and through the guidance given to some men and women in prayer. The supreme miracle of the Christian religion is the resurrection — and the historical status of the story of the empty tomb and the bodily nature of these events are strongly defended. But Hans Kung, in his book, *On Being a Christian*, can write: "Anyone

who perceives the real point of the resurrection message will regard some fiercely contested historical questions as peripheral."

As regard omnipotence, however, in spite of the volumes that have been written about the problem, I cannot reconcile it with the concept of a loving God. There is too much undeserved suffering, and among animals the struggle for survival revealed by television. On the creation, a believer may say "someone believes in an omnipotent God, must have set off the Big Bang billions of years ago," but the relation, if any, of such a being to the loving father of Jesus is a mystery so insoluble that it seems a waste of time to consider it.

I believe, then, that it is possible to worship in a Christian Church, giving meaning to the concept of God and accepting the insight of Jesus into His nature, but without accepting all of the doctrine, such as the sacrifice for sin, the second coming and the Virgin Birth. In practice, I know that someone who has belief of this limited kind can be welcomed to church service, and even invited to address the congregation on them. I could wish however we were more fully welcomed by leaders in the church; in biblical days there were gentiles fully admitted to the Jewish church, and also "God-fearers" who were not. Perhaps we are their successors.

I wish the church well, I wish its liberal wing success in the decade of evangelism, and I hope it will convince many that there is a richness in standing within the Christian tradition and by comparison

that atheism is negative and rather dull. I do not believe in revealed religion, but believe that much beauty and truth can be found in its teachings.

Of course I know that appalling wickedness has been inspired by Christian teaching — the burning of witches, the Inquisition, the Albigensian crusade, and massacres of Jews — comparable perhaps with what has been done more recently in the name of nazism and marxist atheism. The Archbishop of York has described himself books as a Conservative Liberal. If I may borrow the bible, I believe it is better, and more interesting and fulfilling, to build a personal faith in our historical religious tradition than to throw it all away and start again in the arid plains of atheism.

Sir Nevill Mott, a Nobel prize winner for physics, was formerly head of the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge.

## Memorial services

**Lady Ogilvie**  
The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University attended a memorial service for Lady Ogilvie held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. The Very Rev Professor Henry Chadwick and the Rev Brian Mountford officiated. Dr. Claire Palley, Principal of St Anne's College, read the lesson and Baroness Young gave an address.

Professor Nicholas Mansergh, The Bishop of Ely attended a memorial service for Professor Nicholas Mansergh held on Saturday in the Chapel of St John's College, Cambridge. The Rev A.A. Macintosh, dean, officiated, assisted by the Rev G.R. Bush, Mr Nicholas Mansergh, son, and Professor R.A. Hinde, Master of St John's College, read the lessons.

## Service dinners

**EMS Victory**  
Admiral Pratap Kishan, Minister of Defence and Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Navy, was the guest of honour at a dinner held on Saturday aboard HMS Victory, Portsmouth. Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was host. The Thai Ambassador, General Sir John Waters, Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces, and Mr J. Hoddinott, Chief Constable of Hampshire, were among the guests.

**Fourth Division RNR**  
Sergeant Commander N.A. Malcolm-Smith was the guest of honour at a ladies' night dinner for the Fourth Division RNR held on Saturday on board HMS Claverhouse, Edinburgh. Lieutenant Commander M.D. Simpson presided.

**The Queen's Own Hussars**  
The annual Regimental dinner of The Queen's Own Hussars was held at the Savoy Hotel on Saturday evening. Brigadier J.W.F. Rucker, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

## Service luncheons

**Gurkha Brigade Association**  
Field Marshal Lord Bramall, assisted by Brigadier M.G. Hunt-Davis, presided at the annual reunion luncheon of the Gurkha Brigade Association held on Saturday at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

**The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars**  
Officers of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and their ladies held a luncheon yesterday at The Duke of York's Headquarters.

## Berkhamsted School CCF

The Centenary Parade and annual general inspection was held on Wednesday, May 8. The Inspecting Officer was Admiral Sir Peter Herbert. The Peart's Sword was presented to C/Sec F.A. Hearn, and the guest of honour at the reception was Mr R.C. Timberlake, the first recipient of the Peart's Sword in 1920. The Althorn Band of the Queen's Regiment Best Retreat in the evening.

سكس من الفصح







## NEW RELEASES

**LA AMERICA** (15): Well-intentioned but clumsy treatment of the immigrant "discovery" story, with a weak script and a bland director, Rob Reiner. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**MISSISSIPPI** (15): Oscar-winning Kathy Bates as the number one ten tormenting a best-selling novelist (James Caan). Starring writer Stephen King's novel director, Rob Reiner. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**NIGHT SUN** (15): Tolstoy's *Father* adapted by the Topical and others. A modest performance by John Simm as the monk struggling with earthly sin, but the images glow with magic. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**PERFECTLY NORMAL** (15): Oddball, British comedy, with Rob Reiner as the director. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**ZANDALEE** (15): About, romantic comedy in sexual melodrama down in New Orleans, with Judge Reinhold, Nicolas Cage. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**AMERICAN FRIENDS** (15): Nineteenth-century romance between an Oxford man (Michael Firth) and a young American (Tina Turner). (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**AY CARMELAI** (15): Carlos Saura's bittersweet, but shallow tale of travelling actors embroiled in the Spanish Civil War. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**THE BROTHERS** (15): John Simon's tale of two brothers, one a writer, the other a director. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**ALL FOR LOVE** (15): A comedy about a man who falls in love with a woman who is already married. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**THE MURDER OF** (15): A comedy about a man who falls in love with a woman who is already married. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

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## CINEMA GUIDE

**Good Brown's assessment of** (15): A comedy about a man who falls in love with a woman who is already married. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**THE BALLAD OF THE SAD CAPE** (15): A comedy about a man who falls in love with a woman who is already married. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

**THE COMPANY OF STRANGERS** (15): A comedy about a man who falls in love with a woman who is already married. (Cinema) (1991-05-13)

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## Colossus bestrides the stage



Top night: Samuel Ramey, "the most authoritative Chief of Roman Police heard at Covent Garden since Gobbi"

**Tosca**  
Covent Garden

TWO Americans, Samuel Ramey and Neil Shicoff, command the revival of Puccini's *Tosca*, whose opening closed the week of Midland Bank Proms. Justly they received applause in plenty, a sharp reminder that it is not just the promoters who should feel gratitude for the Midland's cash. The temperature of the whole house was raised, in contrast to the evenings when audience reaction has chilled as seat prices have gone up.

Ramey has not previously sung Scarpia on stage, although he has recorded the role for DG in a *Tosca* done for release later in the year. He at once goes into the top flight, the most authoritative Chief of Roman Police heard here since Gobbi. Ramey emphasises the Mephistophelian side of the part and there are few bass-baritones around better acquainted with Old Nick in his various operatic guises. This Scarpia's tones are snarlingly sly, whether he is fanning Tosca's feelings in the church or complaining mildly that his poor little supper at the Farnese palace has been interrupted by some everyday torture.

He puts on the mask of religion as he joins in the Te Deum, to tremendous vocal effect above the braying orchestra, at the close of Act I. His composure only slips, loosened by lust, in the following act when Tosca seems to be within his grasp. Ramey's tall frame bestrides the stage just as his voice bestrides the orchestra. Neil Shicoff's Cavaradossi is less complicated. He uses clean and open tones

had only the slenderest of premises, but teasingly used a succession of outrageous incidents to give the impression of a lot more. Saire's *Don Quixote* was a metaphorical evocation which opened onto wider horizons dealing with dance conventions and even the human condition. Tapestry panels repeatedly unfurled to set the scene, only to be hurried away by dancers rejecting historical specificity. They preferred to pursue their own shadowy ideals, to fight their own internal demons. At times they became the soldiers' horses, cantering and bounding through life's battles to a soundtrack of clashing metal, shouts and hooves. They also declared war on the sexual stereotypes of dance. A man ungallantly dragged a woman along

the ground. A male trio formed an antique frieze, luxuriating in the music's slow melody with sensual poses, arms curling extravagantly, leaving the two women to partner each other with untidy holds and graceless gestures. Saire presented his piece as a context for an impressive choreographic talent, able to create vivid graphic shapes and contrapuntal patterns. Lathams, by contrast, expressed herself principally through design. She specialised in dramatic pictures, self-contained surreal compositions of costume and brio-à-brac arranged around the stage like small islands. Her imagination, inspired by Renaissance paintings and Fellini's films, supplied a seemingly endless parade of startling grotesques: a sinister

passant woman, dark and knotty like a wood cut, a raddled wren killed by her dinner, a manic, hookah-smoking priest. But she also proved adept at articulating demented phrases of movement for her characters. Her images, according to the publicity, belong in the mind of Simplicissimus, the 16th-century amnesiac Pope; but we would never have known, unless that is what the brief Italian narration half way through was explaining. As with Saire, authorial intentions were not entirely clear, but she did offer us a pungent flavour of traditional Italy, spiced with burlesque exaggeration and scurrilous digs at Catholicism, and it was vastly entertaining.

**NADINE MEISNER**

**Lenny Kravitz**  
Brixton Academy

LENNY Kravitz has a knack for being in the right place at the wrong time. A staunch admirer of John Lennon, he cut a bold dash at the subsequently discredited Lennon tribute organised by Yoko Ono in Liverpool last year as a charity event. His Band Aid-style charity recording of "Give Peace a Chance" came out on the day war started in the Gulf and disappeared without trace.

Yet he has also written a recent hit for Madonna ("Justify My Love") and enjoyed Top 10 honours with his second album *Mama Said*. His trick has been to convert the sounds of the past into a music that has proved to be highly palatable in the present. In a modern pop world that has become a macroscopic version of *All Our Yesterdays*, Kravitz is the perfect yesterday man.

Bearing a passing resemblance to Bob Marley (to whom he dedicated an eponymous "Romeo") and sounding at various times like the Beatles, Jimi

Hendrix and Sly Stone, Kravitz gave a single-minded performance that was occasionally thrilling and never less than intense. Dressed in a skimpy black shirt and tight black flares, he steered a seven-piece backing band - which frequently contrived to sound smaller - through a selection of songs that was weighted a little too heavily

in favour of his slower material. After three consecutive ballads - "Stand by My Woman", "More Than Anything in This World" and "When the Morning Turns to Night" - each with an impassioned lyric and long cyclical coda, it was a relief when he switched to the more energetic funk-rock of "Stop Draggin' Around". For

LENNY Kravitz converting sounds of the past into music palatable for today

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## WORD-WATCHING

**Answers from page 20**

**SARROW** (a) A castor seed, a swine, from the common "Castor and Old English" - "Among the same swine the males be called boars and hares."

**SQUAB** (b) A young pigeon, also a newly hatched bird, and a young rabbit, cynology nomenclature. (c) The Swedish dialect name for a male. "Among which generations of pigeons had built nests and raised countless broods of squealing squabs."

**GILT** (a) A young female pig, from the Old Norse *gilt* - "young sow." "Let not your gift to be, till she be past a year old."

**BOG** (a) Also *rigid* and *rigid*, an animal that has been imperfectly castrated (or spayed), or whose genital organs are not properly developed, especially a male animal (bull, goat, horse) with only one testicle, from *rigid*, the testicle being supposed to remain near the animal's back, instead of descending into the scrotum: "O Tityus, tell my husband and the Libyan Rameses the butting head."

**ENTERTAINMENTS**

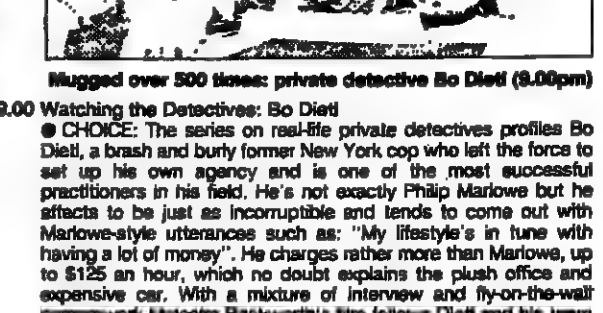
**OPERA & BALLET**

**COLONIALS** (a) 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10



**CHANNEL 4**

6.00 The Chances Four Daily  
9.25 Schoolie  
12.00 Dig. A repeat of Friday's edition of the series aimed at persuading younger viewers to take up green-fingered pursuits. (Teletext)  
12.30 Soapbox Daily presented by Susannah Simons 1.00 Sesame Street  
2.00 Right to Reply. (r). (Teletext)  
2.30 Film: Sailor Beware! (1956, b/w). Philip King and Falkland L. Cary adapted their successful stage farce into this so-so comedy starring Peggy Mount as a Dracoman mother-in-law. Cynil Smith (as her husband) and Emma Cannon (her sister-in-law) are made to suffer mercilessly under her fiery tongue, and she succeeds in leaving her daughter's (Shirley Eaton) husband-to-be (Ronald Lewis) abandoning her at the altar. Directed by Gordon Pyper  
4.00 Hillwomen. A documentary tracing one year in the lives of three Welsh women who run their own sheep farm in Snowdonia (r)  
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Quick-fire elimination quiz hosted by William G. Stewart  
5.00 The Leta Leta Show. Hosted by Gay Byrne  
6.00 The Costly Show: Denise Gets a "D". American sitcom about the Huxtable family, Denise (Lisa Bonet) finds that standards at college are higher than at high school (r)  
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. Music and chat with the affable, fast-talking Mr. Ross. Tonight's guests are singer Paul Weller and impressionist and mime artist Ennio Marchetto  
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow. (Teletext)  
8.00 Brookside. Drama from the Liverpool cul-de-sac. (Teletext)  
9.30 My Two Dads: Joey Gets Pinned. Lame American sitcom about two men who inherit a daughter. Now that he is single, Joey (Greg Evigan) throws a party, only to wake up the next morning to find himself married to a female wrestler



as they take on matrimonial and custody cases and try to find the

0.00 E.N.G.: Dirty Trick. Drama series following the lives of the tough news team from Channel 10, a major independent television station in downtown Toronto. Studio boss Fennell (Art Hindle) and producer Ann Hildebrandt (Sara Botsford) attend a reception held in support of mayoral candidate Suzanne Gershon (Deborah Glover). Back at the station, though, the crew runs a story about the time Gershon spent in a drug rehabilitation clinic: but who was the story's source? (Teletext)

the image, because for revolutionaries, the image of the Sandinista leader in Nicaragua, and the prospects for the country under the new-found democracy, are explored in a two-hour film by Mark Karlin. He is not a detached observer and does not pretend to be. He first went filming in Nicaragua in 1983 when the hated Somoza dictatorship was still fresh in the memory and hopes for the Sandinista revolution were running high. Karlin wanted to succeed as much as he wanted to be honest and he was disappointed at the failure of the invading Sandinista army to bring an end to the years of brutalizing relentless pressures from the United States and the protected civil war against the US-backed Contras. But he is even-handed enough to bring out the disenchantment of a people resentful of compulsory conscription and ruined by rampant inflation. And whatever Karlin may think, he gives full reign to a spectrum of views, in which ordinary people figure just as prominently as politicians. Ends at 1.00am

**Fuzzy Womenisers on the Way**  
**ES Center (1975): East Remould**

newspapers on the way  
to the 1970s. But Reynolds stars as a  
character electrified by a Federal Agent  
back Westing into digging up the dirt on a  
group of Southern politicians. Ends at 6:50

**KEY SPORTS**

**11 PM** The *Asahi* and *Macgregor* estimate.  
Grand Prix of Monaco 12:00 Formula 1  
Grand Prix of Monaco 1:00pm Formula One  
and Prix of Monaco 3:00 Australian Rugby  
league 5:00 A Day at the Beach 6:30 Turi  
Riders 7:00 NFL Wrestling 8:00 Italian  
league 8:30 Australian Football Magazine  
9:00 Italian Football

**GREENSPORT**

**11 PM** The *Asahi* Estimates.  
10:00pm Powersports International 8:00  
Open Road of Spain 8:30 Turp Dupont  
rally 9:00 Europe Cup 9:30 Turp Dupont  
rally and Motocross 11:00 US PGA Golf  
on 1:00pm Motor Sport P3000 2:00 Sport  
News 2:30 British P3000 3:30

**LIFESTYLE**

**11 PM** The *Asahi* Estimates.  
10:00pm The Great American Gameshow  
11:00 Coffee Break 11:30 Evening Wor-  
ship 11:50 Walk With Van 12:15pm Sally  
Jenny Reveal 1:05 What's Cooking 1:15  
Search for Tomorrow 1:40 The Edge of Night  
2:05 Devorce Court 2:30 The Eye 2:40  
2:40 The David Newen Show 3:10 Reality  
Rules 4:00 The Break 4:10 Phyre 4:40 The  
Great American Gameshow 8:00 The Bill-  
Nelson Shopping Channel 8:00 Cosmo-  
10:00 The Selfie-Hunt Shopping Channel  
12:00 Satellite Jubilation

**MTV**

**11 PM** The *Asahi* Estimates.  
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

**Victims of Hunger & Conflict**

### Via the Astra and Marsopolo

# have to beg?

Twenty-seven million people are facing starvation in Ethiopia, Sudan, Mozambique, Angola, Malawi and Liberia.


Think about it - twenty-seven million men, women and children... starving... In 1991.

How on earth can people be dying of hunger when there is enough in the world to feed everyone?

Oxfam is calling for governments to provide new food aid now.

Already Oxfam has responded with food supplies, water units, new trucks, oxen, seeds and tools.

Just \$12 from you could buy the seeds and tools this woman needs to grow food for her family.



**YES, I want to help the victims of hunger and conflict. Here's:**

£ \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 □, \$30 □, \$15 □, £10 □


Name (title) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to Oxfam, Room BE40, FREEPOST,  
274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7BR

**For credit card donations**  
**ring: 0800 313131**

**OXFAM** 

Our names have your initials, regardless of race or religion, in their struggle against hunger, disease, oppression and poverty in 100+ nations. Last November our 100th Anniversary raised record-breaking research awareness and public opinion in America.







● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-26  
● FOCUS ON TYNE AND WEAR 27-30  
● EDUCATION 31-33  
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# THE TIMES BUSINESS

MONDAY MAY 13 1991

Business Editor  
John Bell

## Nissan sales row goes to court

By KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE multi-million pound court battle for control of the rights to sell Nissan cars in Britain starts today.

Nissan UK, the independent vehicle distributor headed by Octav Botnar, will seek an injunction to prevent Nissan, Japan's second biggest car company, ending a 21-year-old agreement and setting up its own chain of dealerships.

The case at the High Court will be the final stage in a dispute that has put at stake the future of Mr Botnar's network of 180 Nissan dealers, as well as 60 independent dealers and managed showrooms.

Mr Botnar wins, compensation claims could be among the biggest seen in British industry, with an estimate for loss of trade put at £500 million.

Nissan UK is basing its case on Mr Botnar having secured the rights to distribute Nissans, then badged Datsuns, in Britain in 1969. He sold only 1,200 in the first year but achieved sales of 106,000 cars last year, making Nissan the biggest Japanese car company operating in Europe.

Mr Botnar says the success of Nissan UK's sales encouraged Nissan to set up its manufacturing plant at Washington, Tyne and Wear, with an investment of £700 million. But the relationship became increasingly strained over the past two years.

One of the decisions to be made is whether the action should be heard in Japan or Britain.

Nissan is already spending £40 million setting up Nissan Motor (GB), its own distribution subsidiary, and has advertised for dealers for the new company.

Fiat, Renault, Volvo and Volkswagen-Audi have been suggested as possible future partners with a re-styled Nissan UK.

Yesterday, Fiat denied it was in talks with Nissan UK, in spite of growing speculation that the Italian company's struggling sales in Britain would benefit from a link with Mr Botnar, whose AFG garage chain offers prime sites with an experienced workforce.

More than £250 million has been spent on upgrading sites over the past five years and a further £100 million has been ploughed into setting up a customer financing scheme.



Delors: stressed timing

## Monetary union still faces 'a million questions'

From WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT  
IN LUXEMBOURG

THE informal meeting of European finance ministers has succeeded in moving a step closer to overcoming Britain's reservations about European monetary union. But there are still some formidable obstacles, or, as Norman Lamont, the chancellor, said, "There is an enormous amount of work to be done. There are a million questions."

The difficulty is not only about the timing but, more important, the content of the second stage in the three-step process towards union. This area has elicited most of the disputes, especially between France and Germany.

The debate is no longer about the

independence of the new European central bank, an issue about which the Germans have been adamant. That appears to have been settled in their favour. So the final outcome of monetary union, under which an independent European central bank is fully responsible for a single European currency, is not in question. A transition process is. This is what stage two is about and it could still endanger the whole process.

In private, the Germans say stage two is unnecessary and might, in fact, be dangerous. Their objections are despite the fact that Germany signed a treaty at the Rome summit last year that gave the official blessing to this transitional phase.

The German finance ministry and the Bundesbank, in a rare show

of unity, insist that national central banks shall be fully responsible for monetary policy until the moment the European central bank takes over all the national bank's functions. The French, on the other hand, want the European central bank to be set up in 1994, with limited powers over national policy. For the French this is a device to keep the feared Bundesbank in check. For the Germans this is a recipe for monetary mayhem.

Karl Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, said over the weekend that he feared that a European central bank, which would have no positive powers over monetary policy, might become a laughing stock and, more important, would find it difficult to regain credibility

once it started to operate as a proper central bank. The other argument in favour of a second stage is the need to achieve convergence between Europe's economies. The Germans claim that convergence might just as well take place during a prolonged stage one.

The other outstanding point of controversy relates to time scales. The French want the European central bank introduced at the beginning of stage two in January 1994. The Germans would prefer 1997. Under a compromise by the Luxembourg presidency, this date should be moved to 1996 but this weekend neither the Germans nor the French were able to agree to this.

Jacques Delors, the Commission president, said timescales were nec-

essary if any progress was to be achieved, in particular regarding economic convergence. So it appears that Pierre Bérégovoy, the French finance minister, was somewhat optimistic when he said the outstanding problems with Germany were purely "technical". They appear to be more fundamental.

After M Delors's offer to allow Britain to opt out of stage three if parliament so decided, it is possible for Britain to participate more actively in the debates, rather than continuously pointing out objections of principle while the other members argue on details. On the issue of stage two, Britain is likely to side with the Germans. A joint Anglo-German position, at least on this issue, would be difficult to beat.

## EC toughens stance on Arab boycott

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Community will this week unveil plans for a ban on companies complying with the Arab League boycott of firms that trade with Israel.

The EC challenge to the Arab embargo will be presented at a meeting of foreign ministers from the community and Israel, in Brussels tomorrow. It comes amid increasing efforts by Europe to secure a more important role in the Middle East peace process and in the rebuilding programme expected to follow the Gulf war.

Faced with the urgent need to restore its war-ravaged economy, Kuwait has indicated it will be less rigid about the boycott but its official stance remains unchanged.

Hopes that the Arab League would loosen, or abandon, the boycott following the liberation of Kuwait were dashed last week when the boycott office in Damascus, the Syrian capital, removed Coca-Cola and other American firms from its blacklist only to slap a ban on other companies, most notably the corporate empire of Robert Maxwell, the British publishing and media magnate.

Mr Maxwell's stake in *Maariv*, the Israeli newspaper,

and his position on the board of another Israeli paper, the *Jerusalem Post*, are thought to be the main reason for his 104 companies being added to the boycott list.

The Arab boycott was started in 1951 to discourage companies from doing business with the newly created state of Israel. About 10,000 companies are blacklisted worldwide. The boycott came to the fore in the Seventies when soaring energy prices multiplied the purchasing power of the Arab oil producers, giving their blacklist new clout.

America acted firmly against the boycott in the mid-Seventies, making it illegal for American companies to comply with the Arab demands, on pain of substantial fines.

Some EC countries have also adopted anti-boycott measures, but most, including Britain, have avoided legal steps.

Diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said tomorrow's foreign ministers meeting will outline plans for a community-wide agreement on the blacklist, including ways of outlawing compliance by EC based firms.

One solution could be the introduction of an EC directive to prohibit discrimination that would prevent, restrict or

distort trade between EC members and countries, such as Israel, with which Brussels has preferential trade agreements.

Although Israel is Britain's second largest trading partner in the Middle East, the British government is against anti-boycott legislation. Instead, firms are left to make their own commercial judgments about doing business with Israel.

The heightened EC interest in challenging the Arab boycott is part of a move to encourage Israel to change its position on the West Bank and Gaza. Brussels is pressing for the right to give direct financial support to territories, free from Israeli interference. Israel fears however that such direct ties could foster the creation of a separate Palestinian political entity, a development the Israeli government is firmly against.

While Washington has strongly denounced the Arab boycott, the State Department has increasingly worked to open up the Arab economies to American companies, especially since some Arab governments have already stopped imposing boycott clauses on companies based in America.

Soviet Jews, page 23

## UK may be forced to save energy

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is likely to be forced to adopt a vigorous energy conservation policy amid growing concern at the European Commission that moves to combat global warming may not meet their targets.

The EC has drafted measures to be discussed by national officials in Brussels today, with a directive to come into force in 1993.

The package proposes three schemes to cut discharges of carbon dioxide from power stations through making homeowners more aware of the energy they waste. Governments will be able to choose one of the formulas as a national policy.

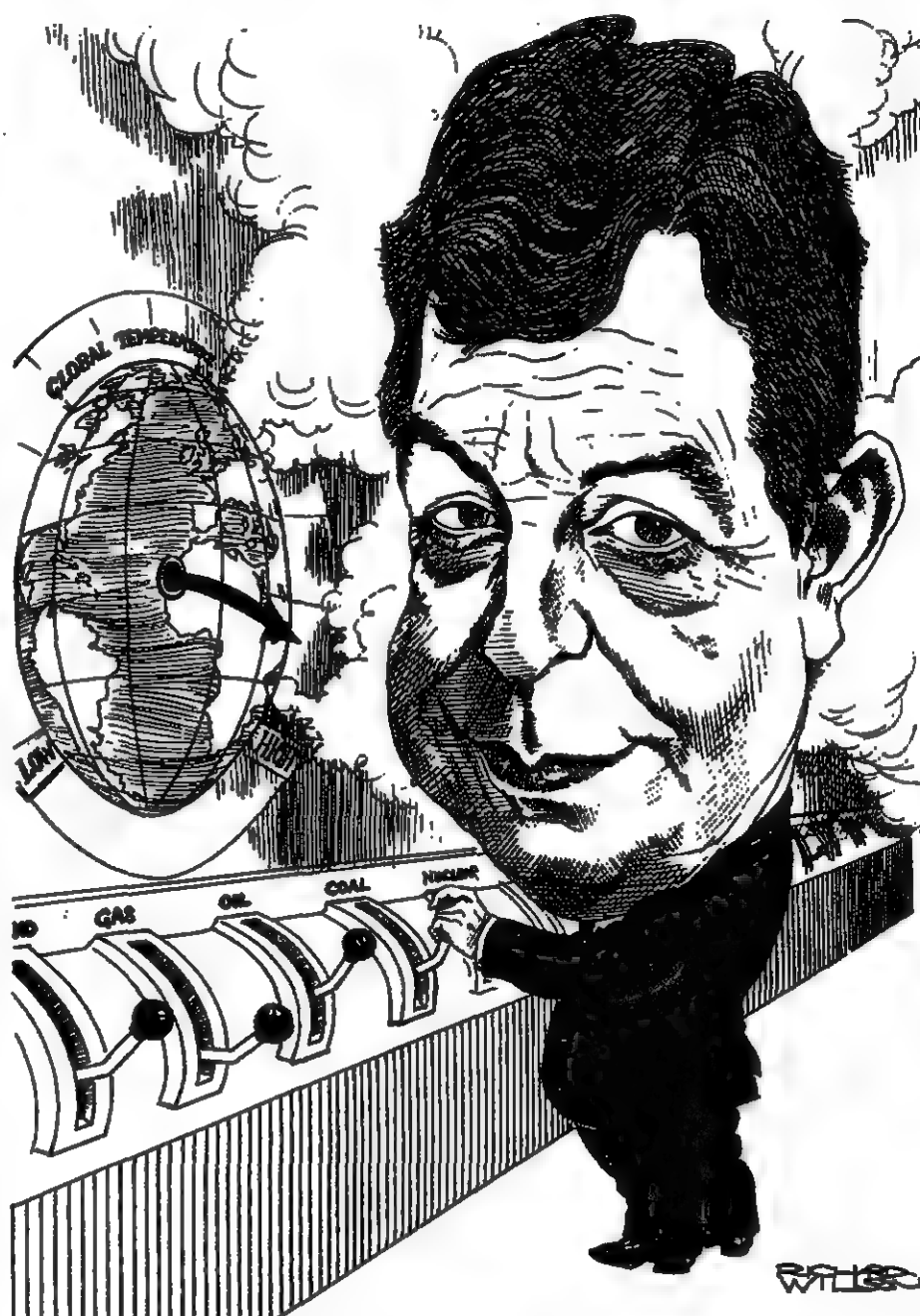
The move could revive the fortunes of British companies making energy-efficient materials. Last week, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, said this market was worth £48 billion over the next decade in Britain alone.

One option would require all housebuyers to have an energy audit of a property they plan to buy. This mirrors EC proposals vetoed three years ago by Peter Morrison, the former energy minister.

Details of the proposals were disclosed yesterday by Andrew Warren, director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, who will speak at today's meeting.

The EC is committed to curb emissions over 15 years but Britain's have increased by almost 2 per cent in 1990, despite a fall in gross domestic product, he said.

"The environment secretary, has identified energy efficiency as a huge market. It is important that the rest of government recognises this," Mr Warren added.



Power game: can John Wakeham, the energy secretary, resist Europe's call?

Greener policy, page 24

## Small firms 'still in recession'

SMALL firms are still caught deep in recession, with output over the past four months plunging more quickly than at any time in the past ten years, the CBI smaller firms council has said.

A slump in orders between January and April meant that three out of four small firms were now working below capacity. Tom O'Connor, chairman of the smaller firms council, said manufacturers had been expecting a decline, but the downturn was more severe than anticipated. The rate of decline, however, was expected to moderate over the next few months.

The report, based on a survey of nearly 750 firms with fewer than 200 employees, and conducted between April 2 and 17, found companies were finding it difficult to raise their prices. Only a small majority expected to be able to increase prices in the coming four months.

Job losses had intensified as businesses continued to cut costs. Export orders and deliveries declined sharply over the past four months.

### CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar 1.7160 (+0.0230)  
German mark 2.9685 (+0.0034)  
Exchange index 91.6 (+0.4)  
FT 30 Share 1974.5 (+0.6)  
FT-SE 100 2524.3 (+1.6)  
New York Dow Jones 2920.17 (-18.69)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 26274.29 (-203.57)

## NY share issues head for record

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THE share issue boom on Wall Street is heading for a record. New and secondary share issues already total \$15.74 billion, just \$3.4 billion short of what was raised in the whole of last year.

Last month's \$6.4 billion worth of new shares which hit the market was the highest since March 1987, when corporations raised \$6.6 billion. Bankers say more than 100 further issues are in the pipeline but some analysts believe the party is coming to an end.

The cash position of institutional funds, the main customers for these issues, has plunged in the past 12 months. The cash element of the typical portfolio is down sharply from 30 per cent a year ago to 5.5 per cent today,

signalling that the institutions are as fully invested in the market as they want to be.

Analysts say corporations have taken the opportunity of the 350-point rise in the Dow Jones industrial average to raise money and cut debt. But while fund managers report prospectuses two-feet deep on their desks, investment bankers have become wary.

Richard Frayne, head of investment banking at Alex Brown & Sons, says he is passing on 75 per cent of the issues he is offered. And Laszlo Birinyi, a New York share researcher, says not all the money is going into company coffers. He estimates \$3.1 billion so far this year represents selling by those in companies who want to get out.

## Walker resisting William Hill sale

By MARTIN BARROW

AS financial advisers work round the clock to complete the restructuring of Brent Walker, George Walker, the chief executive, is resisting calls to sanction the sale of William Hill, the betting shop chain.

On Wednesday, the highly geared leisure and property conglomerate is expected to announce a pre-tax loss for last year and make massive provisions against losses arising from forced property disposals and the sharp write-down of assets.

The group's net asset value is thought to have fallen from about £1 billion in 1989 to just £100 million at the end of 1990. But details of the long-delayed refinancing package are unlikely to be announced

until later this month, as Brent Walker's bankers, led by Standard Chartered, make a final attempt to reach agreement with Mr Walker over the best way forward for the group.

An independent valuation by Touche Ross, the accountancy firm, which will be delivered to banks on Wednesday, will highlight the decline in the value of Brent Walker's assets.

The report is likely to deepen the rift between creditors demanding a quick sale of assets, fearing that Brent Walker may not be able to continue trading indefinitely because of its financial problems, and those who argue that key assets should be retained until prices show signs of recovery.

## Where there's a will there's a way

By DEREK HARRIS

SETTING UP a will service with the hope of making a fortune from last year's testamentary boom was just one of many franchise offers that lured a record number of people to the British Franchise Association spring exhibition at London's Olympia.

About 12,000 people, their numbers clearly swelled by growing redundancies with compensation, had gone through the turnstiles by late yesterday, a third up on last spring. Fiona Parkin, manager of the exhibition, said: "The combination of falling interest rates and rising unemployment has helped make this event one of the most successful in its history. Many visitors have come from London and the Southeast, where the recession has been hitting so hard."

So-called recession-resistant businesses were on offer to new franchisees from less than £5,000 to more than £200,000. Just Wills, a computer-based system for drawing up last testaments in the office or home of a customer, was on

offer at £15,000. About £5,000 could buy a sales and marketing element.

At the top end of the price scale were Climat de France, which specialises in two-star hotels where franchisees retain ownership of land and buildings, and the Ho-Lee-Chow system for fast delivery of Chinese food ("no monocodium glutamate added"). At the other end were franchises for Coverall, involved in office cleaning, and D&K, which sells personalised books and cards, which were going for £5,000.

The nearly 100 franchisors at the exhibition were brimming with confidence about Britain's £3 billion-a-year franchising industry. There was little talk, however, about the recent problems of such businesses as Tie Rack or the demise of others like Exchange Travel and Curtain Dream. The emphasis was on how franchising had been growing at 25 per cent a year for some time.

But Bill McCartney, marketing director of Sun Center, a newcomer to Britain, did admit some caution. He has, with a silent partner, taken on the distributor-

ship of the American Sun Center company's vending machines for Europe and the Middle East. The machines offer "the perfect way to tan" by dispensing sun tan lotion and oil in an effortless spray via a hand-held wand.

Mr McCartney said: "I discussed the project down in Cornwall but local authorities can be difficult about locations and beach owners were worried about vandalism. I came away a bit depressed." This is despite his belief that a franchisee could be in profit in seven weeks in the West Country. He added: "The main market for us will be around the Mediterranean, in Spain, Italy and Greece."

In tune with tougher economic times, Panic Link, a franchised parcels carrier with 100 depots around Britain, announced it was breaking new ground with an insurance-based bonding scheme designed to protect the financial investment of a franchisee should the main company fail. The capital investment is also covered against the franchisee's death.

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# Life insurer rescue may hurt Shearson

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

SHEARSON Lehman Brothers, the stockbroker, is expected to report a second-quarter loss this year after the rescue this weekend by California insurance regulators of First Capital Life Insurance, in which Shearson held a 28 per cent stake and was the largest customer.

Insurance authorities stopped First Capital of San Diego trading late on Friday, saying the company was in a "hazardous condition", after worried policyholders tried to cash in more than \$265 million worth of policies in the previous two weeks.

First Capital is the second Californian life insurance company where regulators have taken control in the past month. Four weeks ago, First Executive Corporation of Los Angeles was seized. Both companies have a high level of assets in the junk bond market and have been hit by its collapse.

Shearson, which lost a record \$966 million last year and is now wholly owned by American Express, the travel, finance and information services firm, said the rescue of First Capital would cost it

\$144 million before tax. Shares of American Express are expected to weaken further this morning after \$400 million was wiped off the value of the company on Friday when the traders cut 87.5 cents from the share price to \$23.875.

Analysts say Shearson's costs could be even higher and will wipe out gains it may have made during the boom in share buying since the end of the Gulf war.

In the second quarter of last year, Shearson's profits were \$51 million. The company provided 75 per cent of First Capital's business over the past five years, selling more than \$3 billion worth of its life policies.

Last minute talks, in which John Garamendi, the California insurance commissioner, attempted to persuade Shearson to inject an estimated \$60 million into the ailing insurance concern, were unsuccessful.

First Capital has \$4.5 billion worth of assets, of which \$1.8 billion or 40 per cent had been invested in the junk bond market.

Fidelity Bankers Life Insurance, its sister company,

based in Virginia, has 37 per cent (\$1.48 billion) of its \$4 billion assets in junk bonds. Fidelity Bankers is not the subject of any regulatory action, although the Virginia bureau of insurance said it was monitoring the company.

First Capital will be able to honour its death benefits and annuity payments but will not be able to make payments to First Capital Holdings, its parent company, or any other affiliated companies without the permission of the insurance commissioners.

First Capital has 190,000 life insurance policyholders in 49 states and 62,000 annuity policyholders.

In March, new regulations forced First Capital to restate results for the final three months of last year. On restatement, it dropped from a \$10 million profit to a loss of \$24.7 million.

The insurance industry, which has contributed \$8.8 billion to various politicians' re-election campaigns, is resisting increased pressure for it to be regulated from Washington. Regulation is currently on a state-by-state basis.



Back to base: Richard Gee, managing director of Moss Bros, celebrated the store's return to Covent Garden at the weekend with the opening of the new flagship store in King Street, opposite the site of the old Moss Bros store in Bedford Street, which was sold for £23 million in 1988.

# Shopkeepers mark tenth year of Spar convenience stores

By DEREK HARRIS

SPAR, the biggest of the voluntary groups of independent retailers operating under a "symbol" brand, held a party at the Albert Hall, London, last night, at which more than 2,000 of its shopkeepers celebrated the tenth anniversary of the launch of its convenience store chain.

The 2,150 Spar retailers watched John Irish, the Spar UK chairman and chief executive, use a military sword to carve a mock cake in the Spar store colours of red and green, with ten candles, which was lowered from the roof.

Mr Irish was a convenience store pioneer in Britain, introducing Spar's Eight Till Late chain after studying convenience stores in America, where they are known as c-stores.

He also unveiled Spar's newly granted coat of arms on a 40 ft sq shield, which carried the motto: *Separati Sed Unitate* (independence in unity).

The business originated in The Netherlands, where Spar means both independence and fire tree, hence the tree in the Spar logo.

The c-store sector in Britain

is estimated to have annual sales of about £3 billion through about 7,000 outlets. C-store turnover in the year to May was £1.025 billion out of total sales of £1.125 billion. Spar has 450 outlets not using the Eight Till Late format.

Total Spar UK turnover in the year was up £130 million, or 13 per cent, compared with the previous 12 months. The additional trade was as much as the total growth for the previous five years.

Mr Irish forecasts that, within ten years, Britain will have 20,000 c-stores, with annual sales of about £20 billion.

An all-day conference of the Spar retailers today will be told of some changes in the pipeline for the c-stores.

Bernhard Schmidt, president of Spar International, based in The Netherlands, will report on progress worldwide. There are a total of 20,000 Spar outlets in 20 countries.

Germany has the largest concentration of outlets and Austria and Italy, like Britain, have large numbers. Japan is among those countries that have more recently introduced Spar stores.

# Drexel aims to return

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

DREXEL Burnham Lambert, the investment bank that virtually controlled the junk bond market in the Eighties but collapsed 15 months ago, has unveiled comeback plans.

With the approval of 14,000 creditors, Drexel could be back in business by the end of this year as a small investment adviser with a staff of 20. In its heyday it had climbed from being a third-league investment bank to one of the top five Wall Street firms.

The bank's star performer was Michael Milken, the junk bond king, who is serving ten years' jail for breaches of securities laws. It employed 10,000 people, paying them with huge profits made from selling high-risk bonds largely to fund the highly borrowed Eighties takeover boom.

When corporations ran out of money to pay bondholders the large interest payments that attracted them in the first place, the market collapsed.

Under the bankruptcy plan, \$2.1 billion would be distributed between creditors, although it is still unclear how many cents in the dollar they would receive.

Drexel says the distribution would cover all legal action filed against it.

GILT-EDGED

# Bond market plagued by double vision

As eyes in the gilt-edged market will be firmly fixed on inflation this week. It is a week that sees the publication of statistics for producer prices and wages, and, on Friday, the all-important retail price index.

Economists get many things wrong, but they are good at forecasting the monthly RPI figures. That is partly because it is not a forecast at all. The figure to be released on Friday relates to prices recorded on April 16. So it is a question of keeping track of the latest price increases, rather than forecasting the future.

Even so, occasionally mistakes are made. For example, the seasonal food element sometimes springs surprises. And April is a difficult month since so many prices change — there was an infamous mistake last year. An added complication this time is that we are uncertain about the extent to which the VAT hike has been passed on.

However, the market is pretty confident that the headline rate will fall to 6.2 per cent this time, not least because the Treasury has dropped hints to that effect. It could even come in below 6 per cent if the VAT hike has been fully absorbed by retailers, or if seasonal food prices did not rise as sharply as usual in April.

Although there is a consensus view on the headline rate, there is some confusion over the underlying rate. That is partly because there is no agreement about which measure to use.

Last year, Mr Major used the "excluding mortgages and poll tax" measure, but inflation on this basis is likely to rise from 7.3 per cent to 8.6 per cent this time. Not surprisingly, Mr Lamont now prefers to exclude mortgages but include the poll tax. This measure will fall from 8.4 per cent to just under 7 per cent.

Whatever measure for underlying inflation is chosen it is agreed that it will be slow to come down. Indeed, we believe that the situation is even worse and look for underlying inflation to rise over the next couple of months. For example, a gradually firming oil price and the strength of the dollar have pushed leaded petrol prices up to £2.20 a gallon; the strengthening dollar will also push up prices of other imported goods. And retailers, who have for the time being absorbed the VAT rise, will want to rebuild profit margins when demand begins to improve.

One factor that has made the gilt market more bullish

on the inflation front has been the weakness of price expectations reported in the CBI surveys. This has led the gilt market to adopt the sanguine explanation that the official producer price figures, which have risen sharply in recent months, are wrong — they are not seasonally adjusted and maybe list prices will not stick.

In fact, the official producer price figures show large price increases coming through in just one sector — food, drink and tobacco.

In this area there is no discrepancy between the official figures and the CBI, and one should expect another sharp rise in the figure released on Tuesday as the full effect of the Budget duty increases feed through. This has unpleasant implications for the RPI because of the large weight of these items — accounting for over a quarter of the overall RPI, around one third of the underlying measures.

This year special factors are pulling the headline inflation rate below the underlying rate, but next year the headline rate will rise back to the underlying rate. The majority of forecasters expect inflation to average 4.5 per cent next year, but this looks much too optimistic. We expect 6 per cent.

This is what the Governor of the Bank of England had in mind last week when he gave the government and the markets a timely reminder not to read too much into the headline figure. He would like base rates to be held at 12 per cent for a while to see if this is sufficient to turn the economy around.

However, forecasting has had such a poor record over the last few years that the government will not be willing to trust anyone who says 12 per cent is sufficiently low. And with an election to win nor does it have time to wait and see. As unemployment rises, base rates will be cut.

Watching the divergent trends between the headline rate of inflation and the underlying rate could cause schizophrenia in the normally sane gilt market.

Lower base rates will benefit the short end of the market, but the long end will have nagging doubts about the inflation outlook. For the time being this combination of recession, underlying inflation pressure, and political risk makes index-linked the best bet.

GLENN DAVIES  
Chief Economist,  
Crédit Lyonnais Securities

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# America overloaded with dollars

## ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Exchange rates are governed by flows of international investment funds, not by such fuddy-duddy notions as the need to balance imports and exports. This has become the first article of faith in every currency analyst's credo. A dwindling minority of old-fashioned economists have tried to cling to the idea that a currency that generates large trade deficits, year in and year out, must somehow be fundamentally overvalued. But the dollar has kept confounding their predictions, most recently last month.

Despite America's persistent trade deficits and Japan's equally huge surpluses, the dollar has actually risen in the last three years against the yen instead of falling. The explanation has been the flood of capital into America, which has overwhelmed the outflow of dollars on the trade account.

But why has the capital continued flooding into America, especially in the last few years as real dollar interest rates have fallen far below the rates on offer in Europe and Japan? It seems to be taken for granted that

investors in successful countries with trade surpluses will automatically want to pour their money overseas, and that the uncompetitive countries with big deficits will naturally be the most attractive havens for their funds. In fact there is nothing natural about this process. Most deficit countries, from Britain and Australia to Mexico and Brazil, have paid cripplingly high interest rates to attract foreign funds. But America has always been an exception. There really does seem to be a "natural" demand for dollar investments.

According to the conventional wisdom in the financial markets, the main reason for this natural inflow is the desire of investors everywhere to own a diversified mix of international assets. Japanese insurance companies, for example, were only allowed to invest substantially in foreign assets from the early Eighties. As a result, they poured enormous sums into foreign markets so as

to spread their risks away from the yen.

Between 1980 and 1990, foreign securities jumped from 9 per cent to 32 per cent of Japanese life insurance portfolios, according to a study published last week by the Bank for International Settlements, with foreign currency deposits and other overseas assets now adding a further 10 per cent to the Japanese institutions' non-yen exposure. This source of international diversification alone contributed about \$50 billion annually to the demand for non-yen assets during the last ten years. Most of this money went into dollar assets. In total, international investors have poured funds averaging \$60

billion annually into American bond and stock markets between 1980 and 1989. This long-term capital inflow, coupled with net direct investment in American factories and property, which has been worth between \$30 billion and \$40 billion annually in the last four years, has been sufficient to finance America's persistent current account deficits of around \$100 billion.

But such reassuring figures beg an enormous question. If Japan, Germany and British investors have been diversifying their portfolios into dollars, why has this not been offset by American investors buying up assets in yen, marks and pounds? Financial analysts rarely stop to ask this obvious question.

Perhaps it is because the answer, suggested in last week's BIS study, is too alarming, or simply too damaging to the financial markets' self-esteem.

The fact is that despite the apparently sophisticated and overdeveloped financial industry operating on Wall Street, American investors are among the most primitive and insular in the world. In 1990 American pension funds and life insurers each held only 4 per cent of their portfolios in foreign assets. Among individual investors, international diversification is almost unheard of.

One reason for this is that, despite Washington's free-market rhetoric, America has some of the fiercest and most effective capital controls anywhere in the world. American banks make it almost impossible for individuals to hold foreign currencies, pension fund trustees frequently insist on "buy America" investment policies and

marketing restrictions imposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission make it illegal for American citizens to invest in most offshore equities, bonds and investment funds.

Whatever the reasons for American investors' insularity, the lack of diversification is not just an exception to the worldwide trend of the past decade. It also suggests a "sub-optimal" policy, in the BIS study's diplomatic words.

The BIS notes that a country's ratio of imports to GNP provides a rough measure of the diversification its investors might seek in the long term, but it fails to observe that this ratio is actually higher in America than in Japan or the EC. This implies that American institutions should actually be more diversified than other international investors. If this "reorientation" were ever to become established, "the consequences for the exchange rate of the dollar would be significant," the BIS study says. That could turn out to be the financial understatement of the decade.

\* *Capital Flows in the 1980s* by Philip Turner, BIS.

# Soviet Jews provide Israelis with an absorbing problem

Israel welcomes immigrants, but can it cope with 1.5 million Russians?

TAKING in immigrants has been a cornerstone of Israel's political and economic policy since the Jewish state gained independence in 1948.

Israelis have been used to, indeed have welcomed enthusiastically, wave after wave of olim, the Hebrew for newcomers, to build and defend the young state.

But the tidal wave of Soviet Jews that has hit the country since the Cold War ended presents a challenge to make most politicians and economic planners quake in fear.

Because of problems, the Israelis appear undaunted at the prospect of having to absorb huge numbers of new immigrants "one a minute," as one official graphically gauged it.

Over the next four years, up to 1.5 million Soviet immigrants are expected. Iraqi Scud missiles hitting Tel Aviv may have slowed the inflow, but that is likely to prove temporary. After all, Israel is not only the spiritual homeland for the Russian Jews, it is also a sophisticated First World economy with food and consumer goods in abundance.

Naturally, there are people in Israel who see many of the new arrivals as mere economic refugees with no commitment to Israel. The concern is that many will treat Israel as a convenient stopover on the way to greener pastures.

The immediate issue facing Israel, however, is how a country of 4.7 million people will cope with the short-term arrival of another million or so.

Such a population surge places demands on the economy that provide parallels with post-unification Germany. In contrast to the angst the Germans have been



Michael Bruno, Governor of the Bank of Israel

displaying over their experience, the Israelis appear relatively optimistic about the task ahead of them.

Like Germany, the country has much experience of handling mass immigration. In the first three-and-a-half years of statehood, Israel absorbed 700,000 people. The difference then was the level of expectations. Tents for newcomers were still an option. Haim Flalkov, at the Israeli ministry of housing, is categorical about there being no danger of cardboard cities in Israel.

In the past 21 months, 80,000 housing units have been built to meet the growth

of the Russians begin their life in Israel. Rent controls are under consideration.

Even though most Soviet Jews come to Israel with little money, about one-fifth start to buy their homes in the first year. By the third year, the figure rises to about a half. This could slow as immigration speeds up. Jobs will increase as the economy grows, but unemployment, now at 10 per cent, is also expected to rise.

The unprecedented demand for housing has prompted the government to reverse, temporarily it says, its withdrawal from the housing market, leading to doubts about the

much of the time does not lend itself to purely free market systems.

While a consensus over economic policy will take time, one is becoming well established about the ultimate benefits of the wave of immigrants, irrespective of the heavy cost, now expected to require an extra \$20 billion in foreign borrowing over the next five years. The Russian Jews are disproportionately strong in the sciences and medicine. Some 22 per cent have academic qualifications in science, 10 per cent have other degrees, and 12 per cent are qualified technicians. This compares with 7 per cent, 3 per cent, and 8 per cent respectively in the present Israeli industrial workforce.

The enhancement this should bring to the profile of Israel's working population augurs well for the coming decade and beyond, improving the prospects of increasing the country's reliance on high technology and high added-value exports.

The outgoing governor of the Bank of Israel, has been widely regarded as gloomy in recent months for his efforts to point out possible dangers facing the economy. Michael Bruno, due to step down next month, has been issuing dire warnings about the prospects of mass unemployment and large-scale emigration from Israel unless the government ends its zig-zagging and sets a stable long-term policy.

But he remains quietly confident about the authorities' ability to keep the lid on inflation. Having heroically brought it down from close to 500 per cent in the early Eighties, Israel now has consumer prices, excluding housing, rising at an annual 13 per cent and slowing. Wholesale prices are running at an annual 12 per cent.

Economic growth, subdued by the Gulf war, is bouncing back to around 9 per cent, the level seen in the second half of last year.

The biggest obstacle in the governor's view is wage inflexibility, a problem that reflects the Histadrut trade union organisation's continued power and the politicians' reluctance to address the pay issue.

If the unions and the government cannot agree to allow wages to relate more realistically to the growing supply of labour, Mr Bruno is convinced that the market will do it for them.

COLIN NARBOROUGH  
Jerusalem

# Jane Bradford aims for NatWest's new firms

UNDETERRED by recession, National Westminster Bank aims to capture the bank accounts of at least 150,000 small businesses this year.

NatWest has appointed Mrs Jane Bradford as Head of Small Business Services and set up a training course at Durham University, where 200 managers will go this year to learn about the problems of budding entrepreneurs.

Aged 44, Mrs Bradford becomes the highest ranked woman at the bank that she joined in 1964. She says: "I went from the sixth form of the girls' grammar school in Derby, my home town, to what was then the Westminster Bank." She was ambitious: "I intended to succeed. I think that was part of the grammar school ethos."

Mrs Bradford takes the reins of small business at a time when the enterprise culture faces criticism for promoting failures.

She says: "There is a big turnover of small businesses by their very nature but I use the word 'fail' in quotes. There are all sorts of reasons why small companies close down. The owners may decide it is



Bradford: ambitious

not for them, the companies may be reincorporated or they may merge.

"You have to put the increasing numbers of failures in context. Yes, we're obviously worried about them but as a percentage of a growing market the failure rate has not risen much. Figures for the first quarter of this year show the number of small businesses is growing by leaps and bounds."

Mrs Bradford accepts that failures lag behind the economy and that more companies will go to the wall, even as the

economy picks up. But she issues this warning: "We ignore small businesses at our peril. They are our seed corn. Many will become the established businesses of the future. All the indications are that half a million small businesses will start up this year and one in three will choose to open an account with NatWest."

The bank already has more than a million small business customers who make 200 million banking transactions each year. It set up a department for small businesses in 1982 and introduced trained small business advisers in 1988. There are now 4,000 advisers with at least one in every high street branch.

"I do not feel pressure on me as a woman," says Mrs Bradford, "but I feel pressure to perform as an executive, especially in a sector as important as small business."

Among her first tasks at NatWest will be to pack managers off to Durham on a five-day residential course. They will be chosen from branches with the highest concentration of established small businesses.

RODNEY HOBSON

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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Paul to repeat performance

AFTER five years building up the international equities team at Bankers Trust, Paul Hopkins is set to do it all again. He has joined Kemper Investment Management, the British subsidiary of Kemper, the Chicago financial services group, to run its fledgling equities division. Hopkins, aged 33, who saw funds under management soar from \$100 million to \$700 million while at Bankers Trust, says: "I have half a team in place. There is a lot of muscle in the background and I will be looking to recruit one or two people."

### Worth a discount

THERE was some cheer for shareholders in Worth Investment Trust last week. Ken Ford, who runs the trust, says there are no plans to end the discounts available to holders of 2,500 shares or more. For their £750 or so investment,

they are entitled to up to 25 per cent off Charbonnel & Walker chocolates, Philippon champagne, clothes from Ted Lapidus or Jacques Fath, or whips and umbrellas from Swaine, Adeney, Briggs & Sons. Perhaps Ford is on to something. The number of Worth shareholders has increased



"They have issued a profits warning on their rights issue."

fourfold since the scheme began 18 months ago.

### Wedding bells

A MERGER between Barclays de Zoete Wedd and UBS Phillips & Drew is in the air. Well, not exactly, but this is how it looks in the futures department of P&D where Harvey Neale, director of equity futures, is to marry Karen Bennett, miscellaneous financial analyst at BZW. Neale, aged 28, known as "jobber" from his days at Akroyd & Smithers, popped the question in a Madrid cafe ten days ago. He says: "I was there on business and Karen came along."

### Educated guess

GUESTS at the Savoy are likely to be greeted even more politely than usual this week. For Sean Jeannette, the head valet, received an unexpected windfall after visiting the Money '91 exhibition at the Barbican Centre. He entered a competition to guess the value

of assets held by Fleming Investment Trust Management. His estimate, £1,982,374,000, was the closest to the £1,982,191,000 held at the last count, and he has won £500. It is quite fitting that we should report his achievement here. For Jeannette taught himself to read by poring over *The Times*.

### Dealers' snub

BULLION dealers are a shrewd bunch. Realising that the London Platinum and Palladium Market is holding two lavish affairs this week—a reception tomorrow and a dinner at the Savoy on Wednesday—the London Bullion Market Association has set aside today for its inaugural golf tournament. "It is one way of avoiding the platinum customers," says one dealer who will be joining three dozen colleagues at Gatton Manor, near Dorking, Surrey, for the event.

JON ASHWORTH



# Nurturing a greener policy for world energy

John Wakeham, the secretary of state for energy, argues that the environment has to be a priority in shaping global resource plans

TWENTY years ago, a common scare story about energy — in a scenario associated with the Club of Rome and others — was that the world would start to run out of energy resources, with frightening consequences for global growth and development.

That view has subsequently fallen out of fashion. For one thing, the intervening decades have seen a massive addition to the world's known energy resources. Proven reserves of oil and gas have actually doubled, and now stand substantially higher than ever before. Coal and uranium reserves also remain huge.

At the same time, very substantial strides have been made in developing alternative forms of energy, so the availability of sufficient energy to meet the world's needs seems very unlikely to present a major problem for the foreseeable future. But, unfortunately, that does not resolve a far more realistic threat that is now being posed by the energy sector.

Major uncertainties about global warming remain. Policies will need to be developed, and constantly re-evaluated, in the light of developing knowledge. But the scientific

consensus is that we are now already on course for at least some rise in global temperatures. The scientists believe that if the world simply continues with "business as usual", climate change will begin to occur more quickly than at any time since the Ice Age — with potentially devastating consequences in the form of flooding, famine and disease.

All this underlines the importance of international efforts to deal with this threat — and energy's part in it. Political decisions are going to have to be taken urgently if the world is successfully to agree an international framework convention on climate change by the time of the next UN conference on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro — now in little over a year's time.

But whatever the outcome there, my expectation is that the energy sector will now begin to develop along lines that are already becoming broadly apparent in outline.

Firstly, and crucially — we now have little option but to radically change our traditional assumptions about the environment itself. As Sir Crispin Tickell, chairman of



Man versus environment: the price of energy will have to reflect the long-term costs to the natural world

the international institute of environment and development has pointed out, hitherto we have tended to regard the environment as a natural and immutable endowment — which we were consequently under no special obligation to protect.

Now we know better — and since the prices of all forms of energy seem increasingly likely to have to reflect their long-

term environmental costs, many of these prices look set to rise over future years. At present, there exists an imbalance, for example, between nuclear energy — which has to meet the full cost of the waste it produces — and other energy sources like coal and oil, whose pollution has yet to be fully built into their costs. This whole question is now

being looked at very closely by the European Community. Secondly, since in Dean Acheson's words the future only comes one day at a time, the realistic expectation must be that the present broad pattern of energy use and supply is unlikely to change very rapidly within the space of the next few years — particularly given the long lifetime of most energy invest-

ments. Coal, oil, gas and nuclear power will probably remain overwhelmingly the largest primary energy sources for at least the rest of this decade, with nuclear energy continuing to offer an important environmental insurance for the future of the planet.

energy mix. Gas now looks set to begin to increase its share — particularly as the present trend towards constructing environmentally "cleaner" gas-fired electricity generating stations gathers pace. Electricity privatisation is already contributing to this process.

Thirdly, I would expect the market to be the central mechanism for ensuring that energy is produced as economically as possible — and for allocating different energy resources as efficiently as possible — though it may also need to be reinforced by a mixture of regulation and economic incentives.

Fourthly, while we should not hold out exaggerated expectations of renewable energy immediately, the overall importance of renewables seems likely to continue to grow.

Research has already been strongly stepped up around the world into a variety of renewable energy resources, including wind, biomass and solar energy, none of which contribute to global warming. It remains my hope that the present development programmes will lead to a marked increase in the use of renewable energy by the start of the next century.

Fifthly — and probably the most immediately realistic and attractive option of all — there is a very good chance that the world could become substantially less wasteful in its use of energy.

The International Energy Agency has estimated that by

using known techniques, energy consumption could be reduced by at least a quarter compared with what it could otherwise be by the end of the century.

Last year's white paper on the environment, described by Sir Crispin Tickell as "a brave beginning", set out a series of measures by which we hope to achieve further significant gains in energy efficiency in this country.

Sixth and finally, I expect there to be increased world co-operation over reducing energy-based pollution, as well as a growing trend towards the increased integration of international energy markets. That is already clearly beginning to happen to some extent in Europe, and I expect further progress there.

The Soviet Union's pressing need for new energy investment, for example, and western Europe's need for a new source of gas supplies could fruitfully coincide to open up the prospect of some of the Soviet Union's huge energy resources eventually flowing westwards, through a common distribution network.

It still remains unlikely that the energy picture will have changed out of all recognition by the year 2000. But the changing pattern of world energy consumption as we approach the start of a new century is increasingly going to have to reflect the needs of our environment, as well as reflecting mankind's technological ingenuity as we seek to adapt to those needs.

## SMALLER COMPANIES

### City catches up with bold Hartstone

SHARES in Hartstone Group, the handbags and hosiery concern, rose 20p to 224p on Friday, helped by a buy note from Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

Andrew Holland, a BZW analyst, said the shares were "grossly undervalued", concluding that the stock market has failed to appreciate the benefits of recent acquisitions in America and the company's resilience in the face of a sharp

downturn in consumer spending.

These are heady days indeed for Hartstone. Led by Stephen Barker, a former chief executive of Albert Fisher, the food group, the company's bold acquisition-led strategy has continued despite the recession and the City has been happy to support its corporate moves.

In March existing share-

holders picked up 96.4 per cent of a rights issue of new shares at 155p, raising £45 million, to fund the acquisition of two companies in America that effectively doubled the company's size.

Eugène Aigner, which designs, sources and distributes women's dress shoes, handbags, and Michael Stevens, a supplier of handbags, were acquired for an initial consideration of \$90 million, with a further consideration of \$37.5 million payable in April 1993, \$12.5 million of which is guaranteed with the balance dependent on profitability.

The group's main benefits from these acquisitions will be achieved through increasing combined market share, and lifting sales on the West Coast of America where both Eugene Aigner and Michael

Stevens have always tended to be weak. Group margins should be significantly enhanced through sourcing power.

Although earnings growth will be constrained by the substantial increase of the equity base, pre-tax profits should rise to £20 million in the year to the end of March 1992, estimates Mr Holland, with the new American companies contributing £11.3 million.

The company forecast profits of not less than £7.3 million to the end of this month. Mr Barker has stamped a personal style on Hartstone but, according to BZW's Andrew Holland, the company boasts management depth and should not be stretched at this stage of its development.

MARTIN BARROW

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCKS LISTED BELOW ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND. OFFICIAL DEALINGS IN THE STOCKS ON THE INTERNATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON MONDAY, 13TH MAY 1991.

## ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 10th May 1991, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the Stocks listed below:

£100 million 2 1/2 per cent INDEX-LINKED TREASURY STOCK, 2001

£100 million 2 1/2 per cent INDEX-LINKED TREASURY STOCK, 2011

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market price of the relevant Stock at 3.30 p.m. on 10th May 1991 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 10th May 1991 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock, ranking in all respects *pari passu* with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions applicable to that Stock, and subject also to the provision contained in the first paragraph of this notice; the current provisions for Capital Gains Tax are described below.

Application has been made to the Council of The International Stock Exchange for each further tranche of Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

Copies of the prospectuses for 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2001 dated 20th August 1992 and 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2011 dated 22nd January 1992 (as amended by the supplement to the prospectus dated 9th March 1992) may be obtained from the Registrar's Department, Bank of England (New Issues), Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UW.

The Stocks are repayable, and interest is payable half-yearly on the dates shown below (provision is made in the prospectuses for stockholders to be offered the right of early redemption under certain circumstances):

Stock	Redemption date	Interest payment dates
2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2001	24th September 2001	24th March, 24th September
2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2011	23rd August 2011	23rd February, 23rd August

Both the principal of and the interest on the Stocks are indexed to the General Index of Retail Prices. The index figure relevant to any month is that published seven months previously and relating to the month before the month of publication. The index figure relevant to the month of issue of 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2001 is that relating to December 1991 (300.8); the equivalent index figure for 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2011 is that relating to May 1991 (294.1). These index figures will be used for the purposes of calculating payments of principal and interest due in respect of the relevant further tranches of stock: as provided for in the prospectuses, the calculations will take account of the revision of the index to a new base of January 1987 = 100 (on the old base the index for January 1987 was 384.5).

The relevant index figures for the half-yearly interest payments on the Stocks are as follows:

Interest payable	Published in	Relating to
March	August of the previous year	July
September	February of the same year	January
February	July of the previous year	June
August	January of the same year	December

The further tranches of 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2001 and 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2011 will rank for a full six months' interest on the next interest payment date applicable to the relevant stock.

Each of the Stocks referred to in this notice is specified under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 as a gilt-edged security (under Treasury legislation exempt from tax on capital gains, irrespective of the period for which the Stock is held).

**Government Statement**  
Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 29th May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet announced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which, or the conditions under which, these further tranches of stock are issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank; that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure; and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

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£50,000+	Annually	13.00%	9.75%
£25,000 - £49,999	Annually	12.75%	9.50%
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually	12.25%	9.19%
£5,000 - £9,999	Annually	11.75%	8.81%

The interest rates payable on Premium 60 accounts are reduced as shown from May 15th 1991.

Annual interest is payable on 31st December. Interest will be payable net of basic rate income tax (currently 25%), which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers or, subject to the required certification, can be paid gross. Rates may vary.

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0.1750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.1750	8.75%
0.2000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.2000	10.00%
0.2250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.2250	11.25%
0.2500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.2500	12.50%
0.2750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.2750	13.75%
0.3000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.3000	15.00%
0.3250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.3250	16.25%
0.3500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.3500	17.50%
0.3750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.3750	18.75%
0.4000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.4000	20.00%
0.4250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.4250	21.25%
0.4500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.4500	22.50%
0.4750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.4750	23.75%
0.5000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.5000	25.00%
0.5250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.5250	26.25%
0.5500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.5500	27.50%
0.5750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.5750	28.75%
0.6000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.6000	30.00%
0.6250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.6250	31.25%
0.6500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.6500	32.50%
0.6750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.6750	33.75%
0.7000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.7000	35.00%
0.7250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.7250	36.25%
0.7500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.7500	37.50%
0.7750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.7750	38.75%
0.8000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.8000	40.00%
0.8250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.8250	41.25%
0.8500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.8500	42.50%
0.8750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.8750	43.75%
0.9000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.9000	45.00%
0.9250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.9250	46.25%
0.9500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.9500	47.50%
0.9750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	0.9750	48.75%
1.0000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.0000	50.00%
1.0250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.0250	51.25%
1.0500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.0500	52.50%
1.0750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.0750	53.75%
1.1000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.1000	55.00%
1.1250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.1250	56.25%
1.1500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.1500	57.50%
1.1750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.1750	58.75%
1.2000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.2000	60.00%
1.2250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.2250	61.25%
1.2500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.2500	62.50%
1.2750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.2750	63.75%
1.3000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.3000	65.00%
1.3250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.3250	66.25%
1.3500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.3500	67.50%
1.3750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.3750	68.75%
1.4000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.4000	70.00%
1.4250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.4250	71.25%
1.4500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.4500	72.50%
1.4750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.4750	73.75%
1.5000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.5000	75.00%
1.5250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.5250	76.25%
1.5500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.5500	77.50%
1.5750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.5750	78.75%
1.6000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.6000	80.00%
1.6250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.6250	81.25%
1.6500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.6500	82.50%
1.6750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.6750	83.75%
1.7000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.7000	85.00%
1.7250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.7250	86.25%
1.7500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.7500	87.50%
1.7750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.7750	88.75%
1.8000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.8000	90.00%
1.8250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.8250	91.25%
1.8500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.8500	92.50%
1.8750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.8750	93.75%
1.9000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.9000	95.00%
1.9250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.9250	96.25%
1.9500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.9500	97.50%
1.9750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	1.9750	98.75%
2.0000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.0000	100.00%
2.0250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.0250	101.25%
2.0500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.0500	102.50%
2.0750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.0750	103.75%
2.1000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.1000	105.00%
2.1250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.1250	106.25%
2.1500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.1500	107.50%
2.1750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.1750	108.75%
2.2000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.2000	110.00%
2.2250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.2250	111.25%
2.2500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.2500	112.50%
2.2750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.2750	113.75%
2.3000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.3000	115.00%
2.3250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.3250	116.25%
2.3500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.3500	117.50%
2.3750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.3750	118.75%
2.4000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.4000	120.00%
2.4250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.4250	121.25%
2.4500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.4500	122.50%
2.4750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.4750	123.75%
2.5000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.5000	125.00%
2.5250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.5250	126.25%
2.5500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.5500	127.50%
2.5750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.5750	128.75%
2.6000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.6000	130.00%
2.6250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.6250	131.25%
2.6500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.6500	132.50%
2.6750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.6750	133.75%
2.7000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.7000	135.00%
2.7250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.7250	136.25%
2.7500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.7500	137.50%
2.7750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.7750	138.75%
2.8000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.8000	140.00%
2.8250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.8250	141.25%
2.8500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.8500	142.50%
2.8750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.8750	143.75%
2.9000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.9000	145.00%
2.9250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.9250	146.25%
2.9500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.9500	147.50%
2.9750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	2.9750	148.75%
3.0000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	3.0000	150.00%
3.0250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	3.0250	151.25%
3.0500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	3.0500	152.50%
3.0750	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	3.0750	153.75%
3.1000	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	3.1000	155.00%
3.1250	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	3.1250	156.25%
3.1500	ABB Limited	2000	0	2000	1995	1995	1995	100	3.1500	157.50%
3.1750	ABB Limited	20								



## Germans invest £250m in Wales

GERMAN investment in Wales topped £250 million yesterday with the announcement that the Elastoform is to become the 51st German company to move to Wales.

The Bavarian business is investing £1 million in a plant at Treforest, Mid-Glamorgan, where it will manufacture giftware products.

Speaking at the German Chamber of Industry lunch in Cardiff, where Elastoform announced its presence in Wales, Sir Wyn Roberts, minister at the Welsh Office, said: "German-owned companies in Wales employ over 4,000 people, a great deal more than the mining industry."

"Germany is the second-largest overseas investor in Wales after the USA, and the fourth largest in capital terms."

The majority of the German companies manufacture parts for the automotive industry, and they include Iva bearings of Llanelli, Alfred Teves at Ebbw Vale, and Bosch in Cardiff.

"The decision by Bosch to locate its £102 million alternator factory in South Wales, in preference to competing locations in France, Spain and England, was a triumph for Wales," Sir Wyn said. "Especially as it represents the largest greenfield investment ever made in the UK by a German company."

Welsh-German co-operation has been assisted by the twinning arrangement between the principality and the German state of Baden-Württemberg. Together with Rhone Alpes in France, Catalonia in Spain and Lombardy in Italy, the two regions have embarked on a major pan-European collaborative venture intended to increase co-operation between companies in the run-up to 1992.

Commercial paper — short-term, unsecured bonds issued by companies — was invented by the Americans and has proved one of the most enduring of corporate fund-raising products. The American market has spawned many imitators, but none matches its flexibility, liquidity, depth and, most of the time, pricing.

Despite the rapid development of a Euro market over the past decade, larger international borrowers still favour the American version.

Like most mature capital markets, ratings have assumed a pivotal role, and no foreign issuer could realistically hope to get paper away without one. After rapid expansion during the Sixties, the American market was rocked by the collapse and default of the Penn Central railway company. Since then, ratings have been essential for a smooth issue.

The Euro market appears to be following a similar pattern of development. Figures from Standard & Poor's, the rating agency, show that more than 70 per cent of the Euro commercial paper programmes with limits of \$100 million or more launched in the first quarter of this year were rated.

For the whole of last year only about 40 per cent of large

IN SPITE of a significant deterioration in second-half trading, Marks and Spencer, the international retailing group, should show its resilience with a slight increase in full-year profits when it reports tomorrow.

Nick Bubb, at Morgan Stanley, has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £610 million (£604 million) after a £16 million provision. Market forecasts range from £610 million to £635 million.

The difficult conditions in Britain will be offset, to some extent, by a strong performance from Europe, which is expected to improve its contribution to about £19 million (£14.8 million).

M&S, which recently announced job losses, will have suffered from the recession, but, unlike most of its competitors, the group has the systems in place to limit the damage to the bottom line.

M&S's occupancy costs are only about 3.5 per cent of sales, compared with 15 or 18 per cent for some of its competitors.

A return to profits growth is expected this year. Mr Bubb is looking for current profits to climb to £660 million.

### TODAY

Interim: Granite Group, Greenall Whitley, Olin Corporation, Trust, Ranger Oil (first quarter), Borden Electronics.  
Final: Govett American Endeavour Fund.  
Economic statistics: Credit business (March), retail sales (March — final).

### TOMORROW

Allied-Lyons, the brewing, spirits and food group where recent attention has been on the £150 million of foreign-exchange losses, is expected to announce a fall in full-year pre-tax profits to £470 million (£565 million), according to Michelle Proud, at County NatWest WoodMac. Market forecasts range from £450 million to £480 million.

Hanson, Lord Hanson's industrial conglomerate, is expected to report unchanged-to-modestly higher half-year profits, although analysts suggest that any rise may mask the scars left on several of its businesses by the recession.

US Phillips & Drew forecasts profits of £575 million (£570 million). Market expectations range from £570 million to £620 million, although forecasts at the top of the range include a £50 million profit from the sale of Hanson's 49 per cent stake in Newmont Mining.

Interim: Alexander Holdings, Apollo Metals, General Accident (third quarter), Hanson, Huntingdon International Holdings (second quarter), Leeds Group, McLeod Russel Holdings, Mining & Allied Supplies, Vaux Group.  
Final: Allied-Lyons, Drayton English & International Trust, Fitzwilliam, Hartpools Water Co, Marks and Spencer.  
Economic statistics: UK acquisitions and mergers (first quarter), producer price index numbers (April — provisional), capital issues and redemptions (April).

### WEDNESDAY

Interim pre-tax profits at Grand Metropolitan, the food, brewing and leisure group headed by Sir Allen Sheppard, are expected to ship to £406 million (£409 million), according to Robert Fleming Securities. Market forecasts



Dollar vulnerable: Giordano, BOC chairman, is likely to report a fall in profits

range from £370 million to £406 million.

Final pre-tax profits at J Sainsbury, Lord Sainsbury's supermarket chain, are expected to advance to £505 million (£420.7 million), according to County NatWest, reflecting the resilience of the

food retailers. Market forecasts range from £500 million to £515 million.

Interim: Avon Rubber, Concentric, Countryside Properties, Diploma, Euromoney Publications, Grand Metropolitan, Group Development Capital Trust, Novo-Nordisk, Richards, Sava & Prosper Return of Assets Investment Trust, South

African Breweries, Ultramar (first quarter).  
Final: Allied Irish Banks, Bata Holdings, Jernyn Investment Co, Power Corporation, Sainsbury (J).

### THURSDAY

Robert Fleming Securities expects interim pre-tax profits at BOC Group, the industrial

gases and healthcare group headed by Richard Giordano, to decline to £153 million (£170.1 million), giving earnings per share of 20.4p (23.8p).

About 75 per cent of sales are overseas, most of them dollar-related, so the sharp appreciation of sterling will be the main reason for the fall.

The underlying performance will have been sluggish, reflecting the recession in Britain and America. Demand for gases has been weaker in Britain and America, although the Far East, apart from Australia, remains buoyant.

Nomura Research expects robust non-American refining margins and strong gains in European natural gas sales and prices to help Shell Transport and Trading to counter heavy stock writedowns and a poor performance from the American businesses in the first quarter.

Nomura forecasts reported net income of £716 million (£816 million), with market forecasts between £570 million and £850 million, and Nomura has pencilled in current cost profits of £1.13 billion (£826 million).

Interim: BOC Group, Govett American Investment Trust, Royal Dutch Petroleum, Royal Insurance Holdings, Shell Transport and Trading, Thomson Corp, Tomkinsons.  
Final: Allied Partnership Group, Appleby Westward, Ashley Group.

Bank of Ireland, F&C Germany Investment Trust, Fine Art Developments, Harrods Group, Jackson Group, LWT (Holdings), RIT Capital Partners, Time Products, Warner Howard, Worldwide.

Economic statistics: Labour market statistics: unemployed and unfilled vacancies (April — provisional), average earnings indices (March — provisional): employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs: industrial disputes, provisional figures of vehicle production (April), index of output of the production industries (March), capital expenditure by the manufacturing industries (first quarter — provisional), financing of the central government borrowing requirement (first quarter).

### FRIDAY

Richard Allan, at Kleinwort Benson, expects first-quarter pre-tax profits at Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch consumer products group, to decline to £357 million, against £369 million last time, reflecting the depth of the recession. Market forecasts range from £340 million to £370 million.

American profits are forecast to plunge from £56 million to £35 million.

Interim: Northern Industrial Improvement Trust, Unilever (first quarter).

Final: Capital House International Growth Funds, Cullen's Holdings, Personal Assets Trust, Usher Television, Value and Income Trust.  
Economic statistics: Public sector borrowing requirement (April), retail prices index and tax and price index (April).

PHILIP PANGALOS

## CAPITAL MARKETS

## Euro commercial paper learns from growing pains

EURO commercial paper (ECP) may have a long way to go before it rivals its American cousin, but the market is growing up fast.

Commercial paper — short-term, unsecured bonds issued by companies — was invented by the Americans and has proved one of the most enduring of corporate fund-raising products. The American market has spawned many imitators, but none matches its flexibility, liquidity, depth and, most of the time, pricing.

Despite the rapid development of a Euro market over the past decade, larger international borrowers still favour the American version.

Like most mature capital markets, ratings have assumed a pivotal role, and no foreign issuer could realistically hope to get paper away without one. After rapid expansion during the Sixties, the American market was rocked by the collapse and default of the Penn Central railway company. Since then, ratings have been essential for a smooth issue.

The Euro market appears to be following a similar pattern of development. Figures from Standard & Poor's, the rating agency, show that more than 70 per cent of the Euro commercial paper programmes with limits of \$100 million or more launched in the first quarter of this year were rated.

For the whole of last year only about 40 per cent of large

programmes were rated. Figures on paper outstanding in the market are even more dramatic. Dealers say up to 90 per cent of the volume of paper sold is rated, compared with about 50 per cent last year.

As in the American market, the shift was a reaction to default. Over the past couple of years, the ECP market has seen a string of defaults from issuers, notably Dressel Burnham Lambert last year. Institutional investment policies on ECP changed dramatically, as fund managers learned the hard way that short term does not necessarily mean low risk.

According to S&P, however, it is unlikely that the market will ever be exclusively for the use of rated issuers. Name recognition will still play a role for the best known borrowers. Small, unrated programmes will continue to play a useful role in some issuers' financing plans, S&P says.

However, having passed through the watershed of a painful default experience, the market is unlikely to revert to its former pattern. Euro CP appears to have emerged a more mature, more soundly based market. And unlike US CP during the Seventies, the default has not led to a contraction in its total size. Outstandings have risen by a third since the 1990 year-end to a record \$100 billion. Euro CP may well come of age in 1991.

JONATHAN PRYNN



## How would the loss of your partner affect your performance?

What would Laurel have been without Hardy? Abbott without Costello? Batman without Robin?

In a business context, consider Marks without Spencer, Mappin without Webb, Kleinwort without Benson. Could Procter have done it on his own? Could Gamble?

The fact is, the death of an individual who is vital to a company ranks as one of the prime causes of business failure in the UK.

And while most companies go to great lengths to insure their premises, their hardware and their vehicles, most overlook their most valuable assets. Their staff.

Yet insuring a key person in the company

could cost, no more than insuring a car.

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Share Protection and Key Person Insurance. Should a major shareholder die, you might need to buy his stake in the firm. But could you go to the bank for another loan?

Share Protection means you'd have the cash to ensure the shares remained in the right hands. As for Key Person Insurance, the sudden

loss of a colleague might also mean a loss of

expertise and a loss of contact with important clients.

Now Norwich Union can cover the costs of replacing that person.

And cushion the company against any possible loss of profits that might result. Needless to say, Norwich Union will tailor their Business Protection packages to suit your business.

You'd be wise to find out more about Norwich Union's Share Protection and Key Person Insurance by contacting your financial adviser.

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Norwich Union Life Insurance Society member of Laurus

## ENGELS - HOLLANDSE BELEGGINGS TRUST N.V. (English and Dutch Investment Trust) Established in Amsterdam

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the holders of the Participation Certificates ("PCs") issued pursuant to an Agreement of 4th April 1929 (as amended), for whom Royal Exchange Assurance acts as trustee, ("the Trust") holding Ordinary Shares in English and Dutch Investment Trust ("the Company") on their behalf, will be held at its offices at One Aldgate, London EC3N 1RE on Tuesday 21st May 1991 at 11 a.m. ("the Meeting") for the purpose of considering and if thought fit giving directions as to the manner in which the Trustee shall exercise the voting rights attaching to the Ordinary Shares so held in respect of the resolutions (including resolutions amending and authorising further amendments to the Articles of Association to comply with the Dutch Act on the Supervision of Investment Institutions ("the Proposed Amendments") to be put to the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of the Company to be held in Amsterdam on Wednesday 29th May 1991 at 12.00 hours ("the AGM").

DATED this 13th day of May 1991  
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE  
One Aldgate, London EC3N 1RE

A copy of the Agreement dated 4th April 1929 together with Agreements supplemental thereto, a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1990 including the resolutions to be put to the AGM, a copy of the Articles of Association with a copy of the Proposed Amendments and a copy of the amended Prospectus are available for inspection at the above mentioned offices of Royal Exchange Assurance. Holders of PCs wishing to attend and vote at the Meeting must arrange to obtain from Hill Samuel Bank Limited at least three days before the Meeting Voting Certificates which will enable them to do so. To obtain Voting Certificates holders of PCs must deposit their PCs with Hill Samuel Bank Limited, to be held on deposit until after the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Forms for this purpose may be obtained from the offices of Hill Samuel Bank Limited, 45 Beeth Street, London EC2P 2LX on request.

A Holder of PCs who has issued to him a Power of Attorney to enable attendance at the AGM will not be entitled to vote at the Meeting. The quorum required for the Meeting is three holders of PCs present in person. If a quorum is not present within thirty minutes of the appointed time for the Meeting it shall stand adjourned to the same time and place on Tuesday 28th May 1991 at which one or more PC holders present in person shall form a quorum.







# Ready to defy recession

The pain of the last recession, in the early Eighties, is etched in the memory of many people in Tyne and Wear, among them the thousands who lost their jobs, those whose companies failed and others who restructured their businesses and survived.

The depth of that recession, and the past vulnerability of the north-east during national economic downturns, makes it all the more remarkable that, this time, it has been among the last regions to suffer and could, it is felt locally, be among the first to emerge.

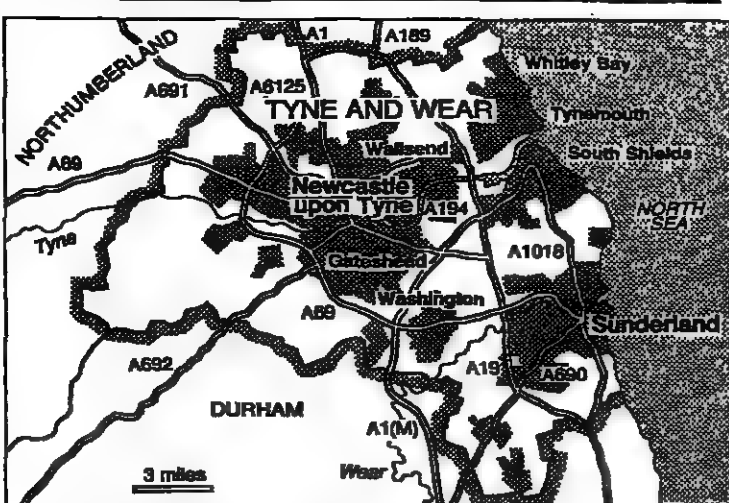
The latest quarterly "Business Survey North" report on 823 companies, by the Northern Development Company and Tyne and Wear Teesside Chambers of Commerce, found that exports held up well in the first quarter of 1991 and that, despite staff cuts, employment was expected to stabilise by July. Up to 30 per cent of businesses reported problems, and weakening home markets, yet 70 per cent expected profits to remain steady or rise. Eighty per cent thought they would maintain or expand their work-force in the coming year.

Among Tyne and Wear's business leaders there is a consensus that the area has not suffered the recessionary shock inflicted on the southeast, partly because the regional economy has dramatically diversified; only 2.5 per cent of its work-force is now employed in coal, steel and shipbuilding, compared with more than 30 per cent in 1975. Neil Etherington, the assistant regional director of the Confederation of British Industry, says: "If we had not changed as significantly as we did in the past ten years, I shudder to think where we would have been now."

Dr John Bridge, the chief executive of the Northern Development Company (NDC), the Newcastle-based regeneration agency, admits the decline of traditional industry in places such as Newcastle provokes mixed feelings. "Some people say it is a

One of the last regions to be hit by the slump, Tyne and Wear could be the first to recover,

Chris Tighe writes this special report



tragedy, others say it is a natural consequence of the changes the city should be undergoing.

The surviving businesses have increased their efficiency. This should help them survive recession, but it also means that anything more than small-scale redundancies would have swingeing effects.

Bob Tilmouth, the chief executive of the 2,180-member Tyne and Wear Chamber of Commerce, says: "The fat has been trimmed; there is less to cut." Streamlined companies, such as Swan Hunter and Vickers, are still vulnerable to the whims of government ordering policy, however.

In a new National Economic Development Office book, *Reducing Regional Inequalities*, Professor John Goddard and Alfred Thwaites, of Newcastle university's centre for urban and regional development studies, estimate that though there has been some economic recovery in the northern region since 1983, it still has

140,000 fewer jobs than in 1978. Despite unemployment falling slightly faster in the late Eighties than the national average, it has recently been rising more slowly than in the UK as a whole. The north's 9.6 per cent unemployment rate remains the country's highest regional rate. Tyne and Wear still has Britain's fourth highest county unemployment rate.

Ironically, the low number of financial services firms in the region has left Tyne and Wear less vulnerable to the effects of recession. More positively, its success in attracting inward investment by foreign multinational companies has also helped.

Traditionally, this investment has been prone to "branch plant" retrenchment. But the scale of some new projects, particularly the Nissan car plant, and their European market context inspires hope they will prove more enduring.

In 1990, the NDC won £416 million in inward investment, cre-

ating and safeguarding 4,323 jobs. Japanese investment alone has brought 40 companies into the region, expected by 1993 to have invested £1.4 billion and to have created 12,000 jobs.

Japanese investment is also influencing the thinking of indigenous companies: high-profile newcomers such as Nissan and Komatsu, with their evangelical zeal for absolute quality, the importance of individual responsibility, and egalitarian working conditions, have made an impact. According to Dr Clive Morton, of the excavator-makers Komatsu UK, based in Tyne and Wear, "people like us and Nissan are producing a wave of change through industry."

Cinching the Nissan investment also persuaded the competing interest groups in Tyne and Wear, including its local authorities, all Labour-controlled, to pull together for investment.

This has helped the government-funded Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, charged with reviving 6,000 acres of derelict land along 27 miles of the Tyne and Wear. The corporation, which aimed on its 1987 inception for £1 billion-worth of investment, says £250 million-worth has so far been built or assured. Its policy of "flagship" schemes, intended to make a dramatic impact in key locations, seems to have paid off at the Newcastle Business Park and looks promising for Sunderland's Enterprise Park.

At the rundown East Quayside site on the edge of Newcastle city centre, however, High Court appeals by two landowners, including Procter & Gamble, are holding up a proposed £180 million redevelopment. The collapse last year of the building company Stanley Miller, part of the redevelopment consortium, also raised doubts. But Amec Regeneration took its place. The corporation's other major Tyneside scheme is the



Sounding caution: Bob Tilmouth, the chief executive of the Tyne and Wear Chamber of Commerce

proposed £200 million Royal Quays mixed redevelopment at the 300-acre Albert Edward Dock on the edge of North Shields, one of Britain's biggest development sites.

North Tyneside council at first opposed the plans on the grounds that they were socially divisive, would undermine existing retail areas and included too little industry. The council now considers modifications to the scheme some way to overcoming its objections, but the local chamber of commerce remains concerned that the growth of adjacent industry may be restricted.

The changes to the riversides being wrought by the corporation are symptomatic of the environmental improvements resulting from the decline of heavy industry.

But some of the unemployed think this greening has been bought at the expense of their jobs.

The local authorities, and the public sector, are the leading employers, but government spending limits have taken their toll. Poll tax capping last year meant North Tyneside had to make £8 million cuts. It introduced a programme of 1,100 redundancies but the enhanced severance payments offered are now the subject of a High Court challenge. Newcastle city council, forced to make cuts of £10.6 million, had to declare hundreds of redundancies.

In the private sector, Professor Goddard identifies advanced engineering, information and communication technologies, health care and biotechnology and the audio-visual and cultural in-

dustries as flourishing sectors on which the local economy can build. But despite the private sector's growing involvement in economic regeneration initiatives, Professor Goddard believes there is still a long way to go.

In one way, there has been a remarkable change in local attitudes. As London and the south-east have become more congested and expensive, people in Tyne and Wear have realised what a good quality of life they enjoy.

Investments in infrastructure, such as the electrification of the east-coast rail line, the extension of the Metro rapid transit system to Newcastle airport, and the recently approved £600 million upgrading of the A1 from London to Tyneside, will further enhance Tyne and Wear's attractiveness.

## Park that put riverside back in the jobs game

Newcastle's business park sums up better than any other site the dramatic shift that Tyne and Wear's economy has undergone. The terraced, riverside tract at Elswick, site of the Vickers conglomerate, produced a fifth of the shells fired by the Allies in the first world war and supplied the Japanese with most of the fleet that triumphed in the 1904-5 Russo-Japanese war.

Once, 30,000 men worked on this site, but by the mid-Eighties employment had all but ended after Vickers moved its tank-making to a new high-technology Scotswood plant further along the riverside Enterprise Zone (EZ).

An unsuccessful attempt to attract interest in development on the Elswick site left the clock ticking on the EZ concessions. Eventually, the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation bought the site from Newcastle city council and, before the EZ status expired and the recession worsened, kick-started development, in partnership with Dysart Developments.

Eighty per cent of the 670,000 sq ft under construc-

Where 90 years ago great fighting ships were built, an Enterprise Zone is once again luring firms to Tyneside

tion or completed has now been let. The corporation, which considers the business park its biggest success, says the deals will bring 4,000 jobs to the site and a total investment of £140 million, with a public-private sector ratio of 1:12.

The offer by Cellnet, the first occupant, to install an optic-fibre cable network throughout the 60-acre site, helped to market it. Among those moving into the park are AA Insurance Services, British Airways and the agriculture department's Intervention Board, relocating from Reading, Berkshire.

BA's £36 million development, expected to employ 700 people by the mid-Nineties and 1,000 ultimately, comprises a telephone sales

centre, dealing with callers worldwide, and a computer systems development unit. BA says the availability of good staff and the high calibre of local computer graduates were among the reasons Newcastle was chosen.

Alistair Balls, the chief executive of the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, believes the park has been let quickly because it has satisfied a latent demand for high-quality space for the service sector. EZ concessions and relatively low rents must have helped. In some instances, however, companies are relocating within the region. This should safeguard jobs and, perhaps, create more employment, but, critics fear, it may create vacuums elsewhere.

The business park also raises social questions; its sophisticated offices have no need of the brute force and "metal-bashing" skills that previously kept thousands of local people employed. Mindful of the London Docklands' experience, the corporation has linked with the Tyneside Training and Enterprise Council to offer local people pre-recruitment help and vocational skills training.



Meeting demand for business space: Alistair Balls, the development corporation chief

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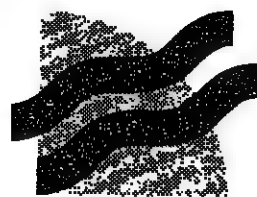
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TYNE AND WEAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# THE NEW NORTH EAST



# The capital that is looking for industry

**Regional capital status is a marketing tactic on which Newcastle upon Tyne has increasingly relied in recent years. With its grand city centre architecture, rich cultural and academic life, excellent shopping and transport facilities and undoubted dominance in the region, the claim holds good.**

**Newcastle dominates the region but wants to re-establish its reputation as the powerhouse of the nation**

Underlying all this, however, is an unease about the low level of investment from outside, particularly in manufacturing industry. Plums projects involving Nissan, Fujitsu and Komatsu have gone elsewhere in the region rather than to a city that prides itself on having been the industrial powerhouse of Britain in the last century.

A study of the local economy by the management accountants Cooper & Lybrand Deloitte for the city council says Newcastle lacks good-quality sites for new companies and has a poor image. It also suffers from skills shortages made worse by

the loss of training opportunities caused by the decline of older industries and the migration of industrial concerns to peripheral sites. Newcastle remains an important location for many leading industrial enterprises, such as Northern Engineering Industries, Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, Vickers and Swan Hunter. The city is also the headquarters of the Northern Rock building society and Procter & Gamble.

However, an estimated 20,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Newcastle in the past 20 years, and between 1981 and 1987 alone, manufacturing employment declined from 28 to 17 per cent, with a corresponding rise in the service sector.

Given the city's struggle to attract investment, the success

of the Newcastle Business Park is heartening. Although the Labour-dominated city council remains uneasy about the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation's non-accountability, Jeremy Becham, the council leader, praises the project. "I am delighted we are getting the right kind of service jobs into the business park," he says.

In addition to the agriculture ministry's Intervention Board, the city has recently bid for two other government relocations.

At Longbenton, where the social security department already has the largest computer installation in Europe, the National Insurance Contributions Agency is creating 1,600 jobs and the Occupational Pensions Board executive office is relocating from Surrey.

There is still concern, however, that even in the service sector the city is not getting the spread of jobs needed to sustain its "regional capital" tag. It is not enough, says Dr John Bridge, the Northern Development Company's chief executive, for Newcastle to relate only to the northeast. The city must measure up to Leeds and Manchester by attracting the professional and financial services sector of



Heart of the northeast: Grey's Monument is the equivalent of Nelson's Column in a city fostering a new image

opposition. The council has also launched an image-changing advertising campaign in the south to alter what it sees as outdated perceptions of the city. The Newcastle Initiative, a body comprising local government, academic and private sector members, is working to up-

grade key areas of the city, such as its imposing Grey Street.

In the shorter term, the council hopes to attract more industry at Walker Riverside. This former shipyard site, formerly called the Offshore Technology Park, has been renamed to give it broader

appeal. Coflexip has set up a factory on the site making umbilical lines for undersea supplies, and BT Marine has also moved in.

The city council has recently completed some small speculative units, and the development corporation is preparing more land.

Work has also begun on the £11 million Newcastle science park, to which the corporation is contributing £2.5 million. This scheme, aimed at start-up businesses in high-technology industries, is intended to help Newcastle's economy to build on the expertise of its academic institutions.

## Further and higher education is building links with business



Dependence: Dr Wright associates her polytechnic's fortunes with local prosperity

## Colleges play a bigger role in the community

Prospects for Sunderland polytechnic depend largely on the success of the area in which it lies, says Dr Anne Wright, the new rector and chief executive. "We see ourselves as a resource for local industry and business. It is a matter of making Tyne and Wear a better place in which to live and work," she says.

The idea of mutually beneficial links between business and education is gaining ground in Tyne and Wear. As well as five further education colleges, the county has Newcastle university, with almost 10,000 students and an annual income of £94 million, Newcastle polytechnic, with 14,000 full-time and part-time students, and Sunderland polytechnic, which hopes to increase its 8,000 students to 10,000, or even 12,000, within five years.

As the government places increasing emphasis on generating income, the competing academic institutions are striving harder to attract students and potential industrial and commercial clients.

Sunderland polytechnic, spurred perhaps by the incentives of a new rector, Wearside's new assertiveness and the shortcomings of some of its scattered buildings, is pushing particularly hard. Its recent developments include a decision support systems

centre, billed as Britain's first, to advise industry on advanced computer programs. The polytechnic's new industry centre has the region's only large electromagnetic compatibility testing tank, available to businesses trying to attain new European standards. More than 30 local companies have used its quality management unit, which helps them to meet the BS5750 standard.

The polytechnic houses Wear FM, described as Britain's first campus-based radio station. The station, staffed mostly by volunteers, is seen as an educational resource in an area where many people left school as soon as they could. The polytechnic hopes to spearhead an education and training cable television channel in Wearside.

Dr Wright rejects suggestions that these activities may divert resources from teaching. "The innovation at the margin reaches back to our core strength and activities," she says.

Newcastle polytechnic's excellence in fashion and industrial design was recognised when 19 students won Royal Society of Arts awards, the most for any British college. The polytechnic has opened an industrial design centre with the twin aims of helping local businesses and encouraging its ablest students to

## Training the jobless to fill skills shortages

Earlier this month Olivia Grant, the chief executive of the Tyneside Training and Enterprise Council (Tec), met offshore oil and gas industry employers at Newcastle's Walker Riverside industrial area to discuss their training needs.

The meeting, also attended by David Trippier, the environment minister, was an example of how Tyne and Wear's two Tecs are trying to identify and respond to local skills shortages.

Economic regeneration is their goal. But as Jules Preston, the Wearside Tec's managing director, says: "We ignore the unemployed at our peril."

The Wearside Tec has rethought its employment training this year because only 20 per cent of its trainees were getting jobs, a figure Mr Preston condemns as unacceptable. He said employment training funding had been spread too thinly. Now, the Tec is increasing foundation training.

The Tyneside Tec has also rethought the training it funds.

Cuts have been made in youth training in areas such as horticulture and construction. Mrs Grant says: "We have looked very hard this year to try to bring greater balance between the training and the overall state of the labour market on Tyneside."

The government's review of Tec funding has left the Tyneside Tec, covering the Newcastle, Gateshead, North and South Tyneside boroughs, with a £39 million budget in 1991-2. At the same time, local unemployment is rising again.

Mr Preston says his £18.6 million budget is adequate for this year, but he adds: "It is one thing to train for the sake of training - to do that we would need more money."

The Tecs are exploring ways of helping jobless people living in Tyne and Wear's many large, deprived housing estates. They are developing education-business partnerships and trying to improve the skills of those in work.

The Tyneside Tec last year made 42 grants under the business growth programme, which helps companies in the

management of change, and the Wearside Tec is about to pilot a scheme aimed at helping low-paid individuals persuade employers to help them get more training.

Members of the Tyneside Tec board have been pressing for the creation of more higher-level training in areas such as computer software engineering and finance.

The Tecs are also trying to encourage entrepreneurial skills. The Tyneside Tec has set up a business development unit, which has so far helped 600 companies.



Site seeing: Olivia Grant and Bruce Shepherd, an offshore oil company executive, discuss training

## Taking up the Europe challenge

IN THEORY, the northeast, with its North Sea coastline and large ports, should be able to capitalise more than most UK areas on the impending introduction of the European single market. In practice, many of the region's companies are failing to grasp the real significance of 1992.

Dr John Bridge, the chief executive of the Northern Development Company (NDC), says: "The level of awareness is high now; it is the level of action that is the problem."

A study last autumn, "1992 and the North - Are We Ready For The Challenge?", by Ceres, a consultancy, and Durham university business school, and managed by the NDC, revealed a worrying lack of preparedness. Most companies in the region seemed aware of 1992, but thought it related only to exporting and would have little impact on their domestic markets.

Changing that misapprehension is one of the main objectives of the NDC. Otherwise, it fears that even if the short-term impact of the European single market on northern companies is mostly neutral, local businesses may fail to take advantage of its opportunities, or even to defend their own trading position, gradually exposing the region's weaknesses.

The NDC is also trying, through its Quality Campaign, to drive home the importance of BS 5750, the international quality assurance standard.

Dr Bridge says: "People simply will not be eligible to get contracts for public-sector work if they do not meet certain standards. That message has got to get across."

## Shopkeepers beat the blues

ONE OF Tyneside's more enduring mysteries is the buoyancy of its retail sector, in apparent defiance of local unemployment rates, which are well above the national average.

The two million sq ft MetroCentre near Gateshead, claimed to be Europe's biggest out-of-town shopping centre, has added 340 retail units and 35 trading barrows to Tyneside's ample shopping provision, and Newcastle's Eldon Gardens shopping area has contributed another 50 outlets.

Last year, 25 million people - equivalent to almost half the population of Britain - spent £500 million at the MetroCentre. Across the Tyne at Eldon Square, adjacent to Eldon Gardens, one of Europe's biggest city centre shopping developments, 30 million visitors in 1990 contributed to

the estimated £600 million annual turnover of the city centre's shops.

Part of the reason for this lies in a change in shopping habits; some secondary locations are alluring under the competitive onslaught. But this alone cannot explain how Tyneside is managing to withstand the retailing recession much better than more affluent parts of the country.

Low mortgage rates and high disposable incomes, a live-for-today attitude, the black economy, the pre-eminence of Tyneside within the northeast and an influx of coach-trippers and Scandinavian shoppers have all been suggested.

Despite the recession, several retailers at the MetroCentre, which now employs 5,500 people, have expanded recently and construction of an outlet for Ikea, the Swedish

home furnishings group, has started on an adjacent 15-acre site.

In Eldon Square, the Bainbridge store reported a 3 per cent rise in takings in the first quarter of 1991, compared with falls of 3 per cent and 5 per cent at the John Lewis partnership's stores in London.

Gordon Allanson, the manager of Eldon Square, says the recession is hindering growth in Tyneside retailing, rather than bringing dramatic closures. Another 49 shops are being built in Newcastle city centre, and the St Martin's Property Group has started marketing its £20 million Monument Mall, due for completion in a year. To sustain retail activity, the MetroCentre, built by the entrepreneur John Hall, but now owned by the Church Commissioners, is running a

big advertising campaign. A boost to trade is vital now because the expiry, in August, of Enterprise Zone status means MetroCentre traders will be paying rates for the first time, coinciding with the first rent reviews.

Martin Glendavison, the Chesterton's partner negotiating the rentals, says a zone A figure of £130 a sq ft is likely, contrasting with Newcastle's prime of £200 for zone A.

big advertising campaign. A boost to trade is vital now because the expiry, in August, of Enterprise Zone status means MetroCentre traders will be paying rates for the first time, coinciding with the first rent reviews.

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## Novel tourist traps

IMAGE building is a strange business, as South Tyneside borough council's Catherine Cookson Country promotion shows. After knocking down most of the areas of East Jarrow and Tyne Dock described by the novelist in her evocations of her grim youth, the council decided in 1985 to capitalise on the writer's links with the area.

Despite years of trying to bury an image of deprivation, South Tyneside began publishing itself as Catherine Cookson Country in the hope of developing tourism to reduce one of Britain's highest unemployment rates.

Mrs Cookson, now aged 84, lent her support, while disclosing she already received letters from fans who had been unable to find the settings she described. Group-travel visitor nights spent in the borough have since risen from 500 in 1985 to 18,000 in 1990. Attractions include the re-

built West Gateway of the Archaic fort at South Shields, a Roman-style reconstruction. Visitor numbers have increased fivefold in five years to 51,000.

Although South Tyneside, like North Tyneside on the opposite side of the river mouth, has suffered from the decline in traditional seaside holidays, visitors to its seafront have doubled to 1.2 million since the mid-Eighties. Two new hotels, the Friendly Hotel at Boldon business park and the Travelodge at White Mare Pool, have been completed, and construction of a 70-bed hotel starts this year.

Despite its industrial history, the borough retains a dramatic coastline, now in the care of the National Trust. It also has St Paul's church and the remains of Jarrow monastery, where the Venerable Bede wrote his *History of the English People* in 731.

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Assertiveness has replaced the gloom created by years of industrial decline, Chris Tighe reports

The government's decision in 1988 that Sunderland should stop building ships after 600 years forced the Wearside town to re-evaluate its role.

Although employment in the yards had been declining for years, the end of an industry that once made the town the world's biggest ship-building centre was a severe blow. Many Wearsideers remain deeply affronted at the waste of skills and investment resulting from the closure of the last yards, at Southwick and Pallion.

However, the area's main job creation bodies believe the final loss of the industry and its last 2,400 jobs spurred the town into a new assertiveness.

Dr John Bridge, of the Northern Development Company, says: "It purged the gloom and brought into focus the whole issue of the direction in which Sunderland was going to point itself in future."

The closures also crystallised the decision to market the town as "the Advanced Manufacturing Centre of the North", aided by a £45 million government rescue package and Enterprise Zone (EZ) status for 150 acres of riverside and greenfield land.

After several years of uncertainty over its future, the Southwick yard is now being cleared for industrial development, as part of the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation's 110-acre Sunderland Enterprise Park. The corporation hopes it will attract 4,000 jobs.

An Anglo-Greek consortium had tried in vain to acquire the Southwick and North Sands yards from British Shipbuilders. But this month the consortium, now including former local shipyard workers and Sunderland North's Labour MP, Bob Clay, was told it could buy the Pallion yard. The consortium intends to use the site for offshore and onshore steel fabrication and hopes to employ 500-600 people, mostly former shipyard men, within three years.

Members of the business community took exception to the "dead town" media image triggered by the shipyards' closure. Sunderland has large employers such as Nissan, Rolls-Royce, Vaux and Grove-Coles. However, the image helped to secure an

## How a town that lost its shipyards was relaunched



Enterprise Zone, which will probably be the only one in England in the late Nineties.

The area's plum project, lying between Washington and Sunderland, is Nissan's £700 million European car plant, which will produce 120,000 cars this year.

Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK, which has 177 European component suppliers and contributes £500 million annually to Britain's balance of trade, last month became the first volume car maker since the Thirties to be awarded British manufacturer status by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The Sunderland plant employs 2,800 staff, due to rise to

3,500 next year when production will reach 200,000 cars a year. With components suppliers Ikeda Hoover and Nissan Yamato on sites adjacent to Nissan, the borough has one of the biggest manufacturing complexes of Japanese origin outside the Far East.

Sunderland's Enterprise Zone comprises both greenfield land and reclaimed industrial sites. At Duxford Park, the greenfield element, an "environmentally friendly" business park is to be developed.

In the enterprise park, which comprises reclaimed Enterprise Zone land, the London and Edinburgh Trust subsidiary Sunderland Developments this month begins developing 500,000 sq ft of space at the Hyton Riverside former colliery site, after a £5 million reclamation project by the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation.

At the adjacent Hyton Park, also in the Enterprise Zone, English Estates has already built three high-technology pavilions. Three of the 11 units are so far occupied. Despite the national recession, there has been a swift take-up by manufacturing companies of 14 English Estates advance units, without EZ status, at the Pallion Industrial Estate across the river.

Downstream, the Swiss off-shore crane maker Liebherr, the furniture manufacturer Shaw, and Wear Dock Engineering have moved into the former Deptford shipyard site, also part of the development corporation area.

At the St Peter's riverside site, near the mouth of the Wear, the corporation is planning housing, marina and leisure development with, possibly, a campus for Sunderland polytechnic.

A tangible result of the shipyards' closure was the formation of the Wearside Opportunity by local business people, the borough council and the local and regional job creation agencies. Its purpose is to market the area, develop local skills and create new jobs and confidence.

The chairman, Frank Nicholson, who is the managing director of Sunderland-based Vaux Breweries, says: "We will never be the cultural centre of the north. But Newcastle will never get Nissan."



Sunderland's super salesman: Frank Nicholson, of the Wearside Opportunity

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## GATESHEAD: OPENINGS TO SUCCESS

### Big dividends in the valley of enterprise

THE Enterprise Zone concept, one of the main developments of the Eighties, has done much to boost the fortunes of the Team Valley estate in Gateshead.

The 700-acre estate, established in 1936 to create employment in a depressed region, was home to 121 companies when 200 acres within it gained Enterprise Zone (EZ) status in 1981.

Since then, two million sq ft of space has been built, 60 per cent of it industrial. With just three months until the grant-aided zone status expires, only 15 acres of EZ land remain undeveloped.

Although Team Valley remains a strong backbone of manufacturing industry, its economic base has broadened over the past decade with the construction of 370,000 sq ft of offices and 470,000 sq ft of retail space.

A key element in its diversification has been the 30-acre Fifth Avenue business park, where Digital Equipment, Quality Software Products, British Telecom and NatWest bank have established themselves in the valley's first high-technology units. Only six acres remain undeveloped at

the business park which was launched in 1986.

"There is little doubt that the private sector has principally developed speculatively in Team Valley because of the EZ benefits," says Vince Lamb, the area manager of English Estates North.

About 17,000 people work at Team Valley's seven million sq ft of premises. That includes 10,000 employees within the EZ area compared with 4,000 in 1981. The end of the zone means a probable slowing in development, Mr Lamb says. But he is encouraged that the recession has not meant big closures.

One legacy of the Thirties remains in the valley: the national headquarters of English Estates, the public body charged with providing and managing industrial and commercial premises in the assisted and rural areas. As well as the top-level jobs provided by an organisation with capital expenditure of £56 million a year, the region also gains from English Estates' commitment to arts sponsorship.

The Newcastle-based Northern Sinfonia and the Royal Shakespeare Company are among the beneficiaries.

### Japanese firm wins seal of approval

WHEN Komatsu UK won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement last month, it was proof that the company should be considered British. The construction equipment manufacturer, based at Birtley, is the first of the northeast's 40 Japanese-owned firms to receive the award.

Komatsu's transformation of a former Caterpillar factory into its European manufacturing centre for excavators involved the marriage of British engineering skills and resources to Japanese management practices.

The timing of the award is apt, as Komatsu UK has responded to the downturn in its recession-hit UK market by boosting exports from 70 per cent to 80 per cent of Birtley's output.

The plant, which employs 450 people, now has an annual turnover of almost £100 mil-



lion. "We're very much a UK company; our local content is more than 70 per cent and our products are seen as European products," Dr Clive Morton, the director of personnel and administration, says.

Saichi Etchuya, the managing director of Komatsu UK, says the company chose the northeast for its "outstanding combination of skilled labour, available resources and excellent communication links".

### Sowing long-term gain

THE short-term achievement of turning derelict land into a blooming garden festival site is one thing: finding

permanent use for the reclaimed land when the festival has ended is another.

Gateshead used last year's National Garden Festival to impress visitors and regenerate a 200-acre riverside site despoiled by gas, coke and tar works.

The 157-day festival was funded by nearly £2 million in sponsorship, and £33 million from central and local government. It also contributed to the local economy by drawing more than three million visitors, two-fifths of them from outside the northeast, and

employed 1,000 people in site preparation and another 1,400 during the event.

For the management, however, the key achievement was that more than a year before the event's start in May 1990 it clinched deals to secure the entire site's long-term development. Significantly, manufacturing industry does not figure in the proposed new uses; housing and green space predominate.

Shepherd Homes has already completed some houses for sale; and the Two Castles housing association is converting buildings used to display the Tyne International Exhibition of Contemporary Art to family rental housing.



# So whose college is it anyway?

Independence may not prevent a college being closed against its will, John O'Leary discovers

South West London College, fighting for its life amid doubts about standards and financial prospects, has only four more days to make its case against closure. Scores of colleges have closed as educational requirements have changed. None, however, has ever suffered the ignominy of being summarily "dissolved" because of doubts about standards and financial prospects.

For seven months, the higher-education college has been trying to persuade ministers to sanction voluntary dissolution through a merger with Thames polytechnic. However, with Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, already "inclined" to take the closure option, prospects are grim.

The dispute sets a precedent on the point at which national power should override the local autonomy granted when polytechnics and colleges gained their independence. The plan put forward by the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council (PCFC), which advises the government, is unprecedented. Students would be able to continue their courses at five other polytechnics, and the 200 staff would follow them. An independent assessor would interview the students and arrange transfers.

The prospect does not appeal to staff, students or the board of governors appointed by the government when the college became independent in 1989. The governors met last week demanding to know why a merger that was already in progress was being rejected. More than 300 students, who had chartered buses to inspect the Thames premises, voted in favour of the merger. Only four supported the dispersal plan.

After a damning report by the inspectorate, an admission that funds were likely to run out by the end of the year and an independent assessment by Price Waterhouse, the accountants, confirming the bleak outlook, the college is in a weak position to fight the proposal. Rather than hope for polytechnic jobs, staff involved in the £1 million further-education contract with Wands-

worth education authority have already voted to ask the borough to take over their courses.

South West London was a surprise inclusion in the list of colleges given independence under the Education Reform Act. Colleges were selected according to their proportion of higher education students and, although offering no degree courses, it met the criteria. The formula ignored the fact that the college was small, run down and limited in the courses it offered.

The legacy of the Inner London Education Authority is said to have been pitiful. Two of the five sites were in Victorian schools with outside lavatories. Inspectors said other buildings were inappropriate for higher education.

Such surroundings would have been a handicap for any college. But for one concentrated in the highly competitive area of business studies, they were especially damaging. Lyndon Jones, the principal for 27 years, realised that a merger with a larger institution was the only option, and took extended leave after the governors voted for an association with Thames last year.

By then, however, much damage had been done. A well-publicised examinations scandal, in which lecturers were accused of leaking papers to female students, led to a big drop in applications for key courses. Recruitment to this year's accountancy courses was halved, and the loss of fee income prompted the college to warn the PCFC of its impending financial embarrassment.

After the damning inspectors' report, a merger seemed all the more urgent. The college takes issue with many of the report's findings, but several points were being addressed by Thames, whose director, Norbert Singer, has been acting as principal since Mr Jones's departure. Students from the most dilapidated site were transferred to Roehampton, where the polytechnic owned empty premises from another merger, and changes had been made to academic procedures. The PCFC's refusal to sanction a merger and to



Where to now? Rebecca Mansley (left) and Lisa-Jane Bettner face the possible closure of their college

recommend closure came as a shock. The new prospectus already describes the college as part of Thames polytechnic. The PCFC has refused to elaborate on why it refuses to sanction the merger, beyond an initial statement that the students' interests were best served by offering them a choice of institutions with better conditions.

PCFC members are said to have thought that South West London students would be isolated in Roehampton, where the new site was difficult to reach by public transport.

Staff and governors disagree with such explanations. Parry Rogers, the chairman of governors, who also chairs the Business and Technician Education Council, says: "Closure is not in

the interests of the people we serve in south London."

Many staff believe the PCFC is making an example of the college to emphasise its concern for quality. Others see themselves as victims of an inter-polytechnic struggle. The South Bank polytechnic is pressing its own claims for a merger with the college despite the governors' preference for Thames, and is offering to run all the existing courses.

Perhaps too late, South West London is acquiring supporters who question the logic of dispersal. Reg Prentice, a former education secretary and an occasional lecturer at the college for many years, has written to Mr Clarke, urging him to change his mind.

Mr Prentice says: "I think there is a case for change, but that has been recognised by the governors

ever since they came in. It seems absurd to torpedo the merger at this point."

Mr Clarke should learn today of the unanimous refusal of the governors to dissolve the college themselves and their continued desire for a merger with Thames. Tony Holyhead, the assistant principal and clerk to the governors, says: "We had resolutions from the teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as the students, who are absolutely outraged. They face examinations next month."

Whatever the college's shortcomings, it has a consistently good record in attracting older students and those from the ethnic minorities, who are under-represented in higher education nationally. Seventy per cent of the students are non-white; on one of the college's sites, 95 per cent are non-whites.

# Simple questions trouble experts

Educationists say proposed GCSE papers for 16-year-olds set ridiculously low standards

Fresh controversy surrounds national curriculum examination standards with yesterday's publication of selected science questions proposed for national curriculum GCSE papers in 1994. One question, intended only for the lowest ability, asks children to ring the living things drawn on a card containing a pig, a fish, a bird, a man, a tree, a screwdriver, a can of drink and a shoe. The fish is already ringed to illustrate the correct answer.

Another question asks children to fill in the missing word of pushing or pulling on pictures of a boy pulling a sledge, a girl pushing a wheelbarrow, a horse pulling a cart and a man pushing a car. Both questions are worth only one mark. A third question, published in *The Mail on Sunday*, asks children to cut out items found in an aquarium, colour them and stick them into a drawing of a fish tank. John Edmundson, the secretary of the Joint Council for the GCSE, says these papers would be expected to cover national curriculum attainment levels from level four, which an average 11-year-old would be expected to manage, to level ten, which will be higher than the present A grade GCSE.

These questions are probably at an even lower level but are set at the beginning of the paper to settle children before the difficult questions, Mr Edmundson says.

Kathleen Tattersall, the joint secretary of the Northern Examination Board, says: "The examination system has to change to cater for all ranges of ability, from the very able, who would not be asked to waste their time with questions of this sort, and the not so able who would never cope with questions set for the very bright." Miss Tattersall does not know whether these questions had been passed to the School Examinations and Assessment Council but says the boards would certainly have provided something similar.

The council is now considering six or seven sample syllabuses in maths, science and English provided by the GCSE boards in England and Wales. The new papers will have to take the national curriculum's require-

ments into account and will alter the grading system, A to G, to levels ten, being the highest, to one. Grade one will be lower than the present G.

Children now entering higher education are expected to have GCSE passes from A to C. The boards already offer differentiated papers in science and maths for varying ability levels and teachers decide which papers are selected. The top grades are awarded only to children sitting the more difficult combination of papers. Miss Tattersall says there are at present three levels of science papers to cater for the seven grades but as the number of levels is increasing there would be undoubtedly be a greater choice for teachers. Sir Paul, of the Institute of Economic and Social Research, who resigned from the national curriculum working party on maths over the standards being set, says: "These questions are an indictment of science teaching. If this is all that is expected from the bottom half of the age group studying science, it is hardly worth teaching."

The curriculum was supposed to raise standards and it is reasonable to expect half of all 16-year-olds to answer these questions. It seems we are not getting anywhere."

Mr Rogers, the chief master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, is not convinced that children of average intelligence would be spared such facile questions. He says: "If they were intended only for the bottom 10 per cent I suppose you could say they have some merit but this has not happened. At the moment the same papers are used for all children, with the bright ones taking an additional paper. Reasonably intelligent boys and girls who have worked hard are upset when they have to go through questions like these, which to them are idiotic, before they get to any meat. Somebody once joked to me that physics examinations would soon carry a question instructing candidates: 'This is a drawing of a nuclear power station, colour it in.' It seems we are moving that way."

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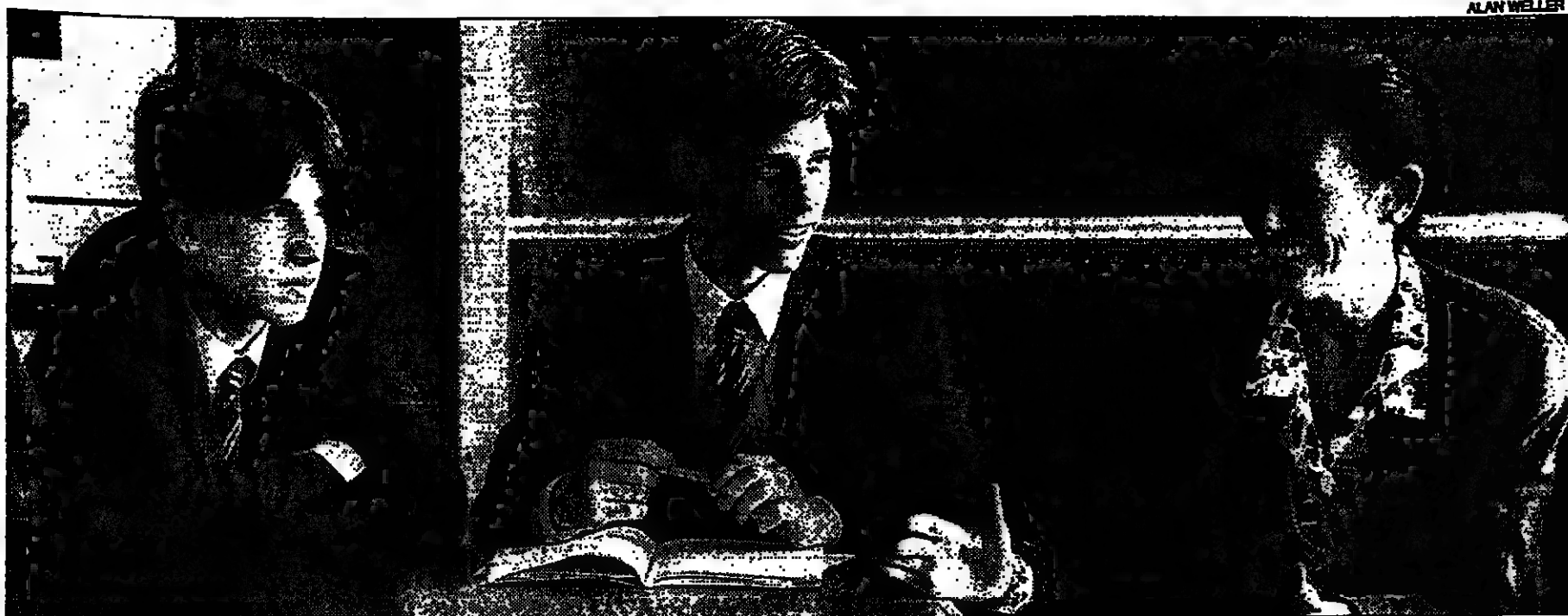
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How to handle grief: Priscilla Chadwick, the headteacher at a west London comprehensive, advises pupils aged 14 and 15 about the right approach to bereavement

## Sympathy on the timetable

Teachers and pupils often cannot help a child who has a personal tragedy. They need far more guidance, Anne Woodham writes

Television images of famine in Africa and death and misery among the Kurds and in Bangladesh have brought schoolchildren face to face with human tragedy on a grand scale. Teachers, however, find the most harrowing moments for children come when they have to confront death or drama in their own family.

Priscilla Chadwick, a comprehensive headteacher, believes teachers and pupils need help to handle personal tragedy and should not ignore it for fear of causing further distress. "Recent worldwide tragedies have brought home to children the fragility of human life, but exploring such issues does not really prepare them to come to terms with personal experiences of suffering and bereavement," she says.

Miss Chadwick's school, Bishop Ramsey, in Ruislip, west London, is an Anglican mixed comprehensive, with a good record of pastoral care for its 1,100 pupils. However, although the scenes they see on television are tragic, the victims are mainly nameless people on the far side of the world, and both teachers and pupils need most help in dealing with pain and grief closer to home.

Peter's father died, and his mother notified his school that he would be away for a week. On his return, the 12-year-old boy came home in tears, not of grief but of despair and shame. He had tried to tell his friends about what had happened. He loved his father dearly and was intensely proud of

him, but the other children just changed the subject. Not one even said: "I am sorry about your dad." His mother rang the school to discover that the teacher had told the class that Peter would be upset and they must not mention his father at all. "I could not believe it," Peter's mother says. "The most basic advice in bereavement counselling is to allow somebody to talk about the person they have lost. Peter felt as if his father and his death were unimportant and embarrassing. This made the trauma even worse."

"What I cannot understand is that the school staff had never discussed how to handle bereavement. Don't forget this can include divorce as well as death, so it is not as if it was an uncommon problem. There were no guidelines, no training in any kind of counselling, no policy."

There is strong evidence that, despite talk of pastoral care and tutorial groups, teachers are ill-equipped to deal on an individual level with pupils' personal problems. Most are caring, well-intentioned people, but there are occasions when good intentions are not enough.

Paul and Diana did not know their 15-year-old daughter had been having an affair for more than a year with a 38-year-old divorcee until a neighbour told them. The girl had told her

teacher, but had sworn her to secrecy. Although the girl was under age, the inexperienced teacher had not sought advice, even from colleagues.

A secondary school headteacher says local education authority guidelines are quite clear on cases of child abuse. The teacher who suspects abuse must report to the head, who is under a professional obligation to call the welfare services. She says the girl's consent is the fundamental difference in this case, and a teacher does have a discretionary right to keep a confidence. That said, however, she believes it was unwise of the teacher to have promised not to tell anybody.

Sally Lowe, a teacher at a girls' independent school in London, agrees: "If a pupil wants to tell me something in confidence, I say, 'You will have to accept that I cannot promise not to tell anybody. You will have to trust me.' If it is bothering them enough to talk to you, then it is because they are asking for help."

Once she waited ten days before a senior girl confided the extent of her father's violent behaviour.

Miss Lowe attended a part-time course on counselling and found it useful when she had to deal with a bereavement. "The mother of one of the younger girls died suddenly. She was a deeply unpopular child,

which somehow made it worse," she says. "While the girl was away from school, I had a whole period with the form, in which we discussed death, and how to treat their classmate when she returned to school and even how they had treated her in the past."

"It was upsetting for some of the children, and many of them borrowed money to telephone to make sure their own mothers were all right. But they were all very supportive when the little girl returned, and this helped her, not only to cope with her grief, but also to change the behaviour that made her unpopular."

Counselling skills are not considered an important element in basic teacher training. One probationer teacher missed pastoral care because she was away from college the day it was given. Teachers are so ignorant about the subject that during the Gulf war, when many found themselves confronting children's fears about the horrors of war, the National Union of Teachers recommended its members to contact the local Samaritans for advice.

The pastoral curriculum usually involves weekly tutor groups, in which pupils meet with a teacher for an hour to discuss what is known as their personal, social and vocational development. Early warning means action can be taken before it is too late.

However, the system is only as good as the staff. At Bishop Ramsey, training days have been given over to pastoral care but a sixth-form college teacher says that tutoring is often the last thing on the teacher's list of priorities. Her college has one full-time counsellor for 2,000 students and 600 staff, but there has been no relevant staff training in three years. She says teachers have not been formally alerted to what symptoms of trouble, such as drug-taking or anorexia, to watch for.

Several diploma courses in counselling skills and pastoral care are available for qualified teachers, notably at the Tavistock Clinic, the Institute of Education, University of London, and at Warwick and Coventry universities, but together they offer only a few hundred places a year.

Miss Chadwick believes financial constraints linked with the introduction of local management of schools, which hands their day-to-day running to heads and governors on a fixed budget, could further reduce staff training.

Margot Waddell, the organizing tutor at the Tavistock, says state school teachers used to outnumber those from the independent sector. Now their numbers are falling dramatically.

The most common problems, she says, apart from abuse, are loss and separation of all kinds, emotional deprivation, depression, anxiety, and eating disorders. "The more teachers learn, the more frustrated they are about their ability to cope," she says.

## Clean-up tribute

THE 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession next year will be celebrated by thousands of schoolchildren and students in a national competition to improve the environment. Nearly 4,500 schools, including six service schools in Cyprus and Germany, have said they will take part in the Schools Environmental Challenge organised by the Royal Anniversary Trust. Robin Gill, of the trust, says the aim is to encourage children to improve their environment by working with parents, teachers, local organisations and business.

Entries can be new or existing projects such as improving or repairing buildings, developing gardens or rest areas, improving local amenities, planting trees or shrubs, eliminating pollution, encouraging wild flowers, protecting wildlife, or creating nature trails. The trust will also welcome literary, musical or artistic contributions.

Every school will receive an award after local, regional and national judging, and the best projects will receive prizes at a televised ceremony in London. The competition is open to everybody aged four to 19 in education in the UK and further information is available from the Royal Anniversary Trust, Horsley Towers, East Horsley, Surrey KT24 6DU.

## New VC

JAMES Wright, the secretary general of the faculties at Cambridge university, has been appointed vice-chancellor of Newcastle university. Mr Wright, aged 51, was educated at Inverness Royal Academy, Dundee high school and the universities of Edinburgh and Cambridge. He says: "I am delighted to be joining a university which has such a strong base in both teaching and research."

## Sign of progress

DEAF British researchers involved in a teacher-training project for deaf students are using a sign language that is baffling experts. The Bristol university researchers have introduced three Russian factory workers to a training course for the deaf, yet they do not know each others' spoken or sign language. Bencie Woll, the project director, says: "It is a

truly international form of communication in which the deaf put hearing people to shame. Our team is teaching the difficulties and complexities of what would be a postgraduate-level training course in this country to people with a different language. With each encounter it seems that the language is extended."

## Out of tune

TWO persistent weaknesses in primary school music lessons are underestimating pupils' musical abilities and not stretching them enough in lessons, according to a report from the school inspectors. Standards often vary greatly between classes in the same school, says the report, which also calls for all children to be given the chance to play musical instruments. Standards were satisfactory or better in almost three-quarters of the 285 schools visited between 1982 and 1986. Opportunities to listen to music and develop musical skills were provided in all the schools, and standards achieved were satisfactory or better in just over half. More than four out of five schools used tuned or untuned percussion instruments and some provided recorder lessons.

## Test tips



CHATTERING to friends before an examination can damage results. A new guide from the Associated Examining Board says students should avoid post-mortems and concentrate on the next paper. Students are told that keeping quiet outside the examination hall is the ideal way to avoid nerves and to plan revision. They are advised to make sure they know what will be asked by studying old papers and the syllabus, and triple-checking when and where every exam is. Exam instructions should be read carefully and the number of marks available for a question used as a guide to how long should be spent on it.

DAVID TYTLER

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

(\*Source: UK NRS July 1990 -

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# Choir schools fear the sound of silence

Fewer potential choristers are applying for what has always been considered one of the best routes to a subsidised exclusive school career. Hugh Thompson investigates a change of tune

Britain's independent schools do more than cater for the academically able, offering non-selective places and a specialist education. One of the most attractive options is a subsidised place at one of the country's 37 choir schools. Despite this, the schools are facing a recruitment crisis.

Numbers of would-be choristers are falling and efforts to interest children from non-professional families have had little effect. Westminster Cathedral Choir School received only one applicant last year for five places, and this year Norwich School had only three, but could have taken twice as many. Twelve schools had fewer than ten candidates each at their voice trials, and the number recruited nationally fell from 20 to ten.

Richard Shepherd, the chairman of the Choir Schools Association, says: "Seventy years ago, parents from the lower socio-economic groups considered choristerships a way of gaining free education for their sons and were prepared to accept interruptions in normal family life as the accepted price. In the past few decades, recruitment tends to have been from the professional classes, and we are running the risk of being seen as a cosy, middle-class clique."

More than £2 million is spent subsidising the education of Britain's 319 choristers and more schemes to raise support have started. More money may not be the answer, however. Few boys have enough musical ability or voice quality to be considered as choristers and even fewer are interested in spending five years in the rarefied and adult world of church music.

The schools' advertising of their voice trials has made many aware of the highly subsidised private education plus the unparalleled training that choir schools offer.

"The numbers applying vary from year to year, before this year we had two good years," says Chris Brown, the headmaster of Norwich

School. "I think there might be fewer boys and families prepared to make the commitment. Perhaps the demands put on the boys outweigh any financial incentives we offer."

Chris Nicholas, the headmaster of Kings prep school in Rochester, Kent, says: "The most important thing we offer is the life of a chorister, which allows boys to reach a professional standard in music. Many of our choristers get music scholarships to senior schools. We make sure everything they do, such as the recent European tour when the choir sang in Notre-Dame, is given to the media. Although we have a wide appeal, there are certain schools and families that find the choir most attractive. Next year, we will have three sets of brothers in our 20-strong choir."

Kings, in common with other choir schools, offers a variety of subsidies for choristers. Two full scholarships are sponsored by the insurance group Save and Prosper; other choristers get 40 per cent off their fees.

Such is the quality of the musical education in cathedral choirs that more than 60 per cent win music scholarships to senior schools. Eighty per cent of choristers eventually go to university.

Nowhere has the recruitment problem been more acute than at Westminster Cathedral. Luckily, one of the boy's fathers is

*'I fear music teaching is being squeezed'*

Howard Harding, a public relations consultant. Peter Hannigan, the head teacher, says: "In 1990, we had only one application. Mr Harding kindly volunteered his services."

Mr Harding targeted Roman Catholic primary schools with the message that becoming a chorister was an efficient way of getting a first-rate private education.



Choristers at Westminster Cathedral Choir School: last year the school received only one application

"The result of the campaign has been that this year we had nine suitable candidates, which gave us the biggest intake on record," Mr Hannigan says.

One choir that has no recruitment problems is Salisbury Cathedral School. With no special effort, the school has more than enough applicants each year. In September, the cathedral will launch the first girls' cathedral choir. "This is not a mixed choir," a school official said. "Girls' and boys' voices do not mix." The 16-girl choir was doubly oversubscribed.

The choir was the idea of Richard Seal, the choirmaster. He says: "At the end of the voice trial, we were convinced the project was meant to happen. Now we must set about the task of raising half a million pounds to endow scholarships for these deserving young musicians. It will cost £25,000 to endow each choral scholarship. The present choristers' endowment fund, together with certain bursaries, provides only for the education of boy choristers. The cathedral is determined that the girls will benefit in the same way."

A government scheme that provides scholarships for children with special abilities to attend special schools has been extended to cover

some choristers. If the choir schools face particular problems, other specialist music schools have problems and fears of their own, not least as parents realise that few can make a comfortable living in music.

The Yehudi Mennhin School, near Cobham, Surrey, caters for 42 gifted music students, 26 of whom have been recruited from the maintained sector. Nicholas Chisholm, the headmaster, says: "Recruitment levels are holding up, but I fear that local management of schools and the national curriculum are going to put the squeeze on the facilities being devoted to the teaching of

*'Pressure on us to find funds is growing'*

music and the supply of instruments at primary schools. "It would be sad to throw away the good work in the teaching of instruments since 1945."

Michael Brewer, the director of music at Cbeetham Community School in Manchester, is also worried about cutbacks. "There is a declining provision for music, which is worrying," he says. "Many

local education authorities have cut back. In Manchester, for the first time in 20 years, we have no youth orchestra. There is also a cultural problem as modern music becomes integrated. Fewer children are doing string instruments and more are doing keyboard and wind instruments at school. We have noticed a decline in the numbers applying for string instruments; those specialising in the cello have fallen off dramatically."

John Baine, the headmaster of the Purcell School in Harrow, believes that local authorities are cutting back. "Companies are less in a position to provide sponsorship and parents are more strapped for cash than ever," he says. "We are determined that nobody will ever suffer because they cannot afford the fees, but all this is putting extra pressure on us to find funds."

At Trinity School, in Croydon, more than half the 800 boys participate in the school's choir, orchestras and ensembles. David Squibbe, the director of music, says: "I suppose we have been stealing from the choir schools. A lot of parents like the idea that their child is not at a school where there is no break at 13."

The Choir Schools Association annual meeting is being held at Gloucester on Wednesday and Thursday.

## Anxiety belies forced optimism

Labour's policies have added to the long list of financial worries for Britain's independent schools

The rosy picture painted by the independent schools' official figures masks a difficult time for all but the most successful. The recession has not bitten deep, but every year a handful of schools goes out of business. This year, at least five girls' boarding schools will close. Last year, 44 schools, mostly junior and kindergartens, were closed.

The most serious problem facing independent schools, however, is the possible election of a Labour government. Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, says he will not stand in the way of parental choice, although he plans to make state schools so successful that "only snobs or eccentrics will choose to pay". Independent schools depend on their charitable status, and some schools would face an uncertain future if they were to lose this.

Labour believes many independent schools have outgrown their original charitable purpose, and is committed to reforming the charity law, as recommended by a 1975 select committee. Charitable status will only remain with schools that show they deserve it. Facilities could, for example, be shared with local state schools, allowing joint use of swimming pools, playing fields or computer rooms.

The Labour party views independent schools as a barrier to its commitment to a fully comprehensive school system and sees no case for schools that charge fees and select pupils on the grounds of attainment to continue to enjoy large subsidies without proof that they deserve it. Independent special schools and others Labour has decided to meet genuine boarding needs and complement local authority schools will continue to receive funding.

The government's assisted places scheme, which helps families send their able children to independent schools, and is the cornerstone of many schools, will be dropped by a Labour government. Labour will honour all existing places: at present 30,000

children are on the scheme, which costs £52.7 million.

Finance apart, independent schools would face fundamental educational changes under Labour. At present, independent schools are able to pick and choose the parts of the national curriculum they wish to follow. The flexibility this allows and the fact that so many of the schools deal with academically able students means more can be packed into the school day and extras, such as the classics and the three sciences, can be incorporated without damaging mainstream subjects. Under Labour, what the state schools have to put up with, so will they.

Independent schools will also be subject to more regular inspection under the new Education Standards Council, which will be made up of some parts of Her Majesty's Inspectors of schools and local inspectors. The council will be responsible for annual awards to schools that have shown their effectiveness.

Labour's tolerance of independent schools is at odds with its attitude to grant-maintained schools, which could, if they grow in numbers and quality, prove a threat to some day schools. Labour will stop the programme, and grant-maintained schools, together with the city technology colleges, will be handed back to the local authorities.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, is determined most of the 4,000 state secondary schools in England and Wales will become grant-maintained. A new Conservative government will try to make opting out more attractive and easier. Mr Clarke announced recently that grant-maintained schools could change their character within 18 months to two years, rather than wait for the original five years. Some schools may choose to be selective or to re-open sixth forms, which will result in more competition for independent schools.

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## Court of Appeal

## Law Report May 13 1991

## Queen's Bench Division

## DTI inspectors need not caution defendants

**Regina v Seelig**  
**Regina v Lord Spens**  
Before Lord Justice Watkins,  
Mr Justice Allott and Mr  
Justice Cresswell  
[Judgment May 2]

Where testimony had been obtained by Department of Trade and Industry inspectors under section 434 of the Companies Act 1985, such evidence could be used in a criminal trial against the maker of the statements.

The inspectors were not "investigating offences" within the meaning of section 67(9) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 when making enquiries pursuant to section 434 of the 1985 Act and therefore were not subject to the *Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984* (s. 66) Codes of Practice and did not have to caution the defendants before questioning them.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeals of Mr Roger Hugh Knight Seelig and Lord Spens against Mr Justice Henry's ruling at Southwark Crown Court on the admissibility of evidence given by the defendants to the DTI inspectors.

Mr H. D. R. Hood for Lord Spens; Mr Seelig in person; Mr John Chadwick QC, Miss Elizabeth Gloster QC, Mr Victor Temple and Mr Richard Horwell for the prosecution.

**LORD JUSTICE WATKINS**, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the first issue was whether, correctly construed, section 434(3) of the 1985 Act had the effect of causing answers given to the DTI inspectors to be evidence he gave them in a criminal trial.

The judge had referred to the following cases: *R v Harz* (1987) 1 AC 760; *R v Harris* (1987) 1 WLR 1232; and *London & County Securities Ltd v Nicholson* (1980) 1 WLR 948. He could not be faulted in reaching the following conclusions:

1 The witness was obliged at law to answer the questions.

2 In asking a question the inspectors' concern was whether it was fair, in the context of their enquiry, to ask the question. As to whether it was fair to allow the answer to be given in evidence in a criminal trial, that was not the inspectors' but the trial judge's concern.

3 The witness's answers might be used against him in criminal proceedings; they were *ex hypothesi* answers to questions, the answers to which might tend to incriminate him, subject, that, to the provisions of the 1984 Act.

4 He was under a duty to answer, even though his answers might tend to incriminate him.

5 However, the inspectors could not compel an answer. They could only certify as obstruction any refusal to answer and refer it to the High Court who could punish as a contempt under section 436 of the 1985 Act.

The second point was whether the inspectors were persons "investigating offences" within the meaning of section 67(9) of the 1984 Act to whom the *Codes of Practice* applied.

Their Lordships held that whether a body or a person conducting some kind of enquiry was subject to section 67(9) of the 1984 Act was a question of fact in each case, it was quite impossible to give a generalised answer to the question arising out of subsection (9).

The judge had found as a fact that the inspectors in the present case were not investigating offences. Upon all the evidence before him it was a conclusion at which he could justifiably arrive. His finding in that respect was therefore not wrong.

The third point related to section 76(2)(a) of the 1984 Act as to whether the judge was wrong in admitting the defendants' testimony to the inspectors on the ground it was obtained by oppression.

It was rightly held by the judge that within section 432(2) of the 1985 Act the wording "reasonably able to give" dealt with the witness's ability to answer questions or provide documents. It related to practical matters. It did not bring in the evidential privilege against self-incrimination.

The judge had correctly held that it could not be oppressive for the inspectors to question someone as intelligent and sophisticated as an experienced merchant banker without explaining the full import of Part 14 of the 1985 Act which was there for the defendant to read himself and/or to take advice upon.

Whether the inspectors would certify the defendants' refusal to answer to the High Court depended upon how central the answer was to the enquiry, the judge said.

He continued that it was not for the inspectors to be concerned as to whether a truthful answer might incriminate the defendant. If that was so then their enquiries would be severely curtailed, and the statutory purpose for which they were appointed, to some extent, defeated.

The judge held that the attempt to exclude the evidence

under section 76(2)(a) failed. In respect of the defendants not being warned or cautioned before being questioned by the inspectors, the judge had found with counsel that it was not too cynical to assume that the likely consequences of a warning would be that the witness would be more guarded, more evasive and less frank, or that he would refuse to answer altogether and risk punishment for contempt.

He held that failure to give a warning was not likely to render answers freely given unreliable and the section 76(2)(b) application failed.

Their Lordships had no doubt that for the reasons he gave, the judge was entirely right.

In respect of the judge's exercise of his discretion under sections 78(1) and 82(3) of the 1984 Act, he found that no improper means had been used to force the defendants to give evidence which could serve to incriminate them. The privilege against self-incrimination had to be upheld unless there was good reason to the contrary.

The judge had been correct in his finding that the evidence was not so tainted as to require exclusion.

It was not the answer for four reasons: 1 Parliament had attached importance to the investigative function of the DTI inspectors in company fraud and to getting at the truth in such matters. 2 Those likely to be questioned

were those whose Companies Act and common law responsibilities in relation to shareholders' funds and the integrity of the market were reflected in the privileged position they had. It was not too much to restrict their civil rights, as Parliament had done, by an obligation to answer questions the answers to which might be used against them in criminal proceedings.

3 The general protection, designed for the weak, the inarticulate and the suggestible in the storage and hostile environment of a police station, was less obviously needed to protect those in a section 432 investigation who would usually be intelligent, accompanied by lawyers and giving evidence by prior appointment in an environment not so foreign to them.

4 Fundamentally, the fact that the defendants were treated less favourably than a man accused of crime was because the legislature had decided that they should be.

It was for those reasons that the judge had decided that the evidence obtained under the inquisitorial process before the defendants were charged did not have an adverse effect on the fairness of the proceedings. It would have been different once the defendants had been charged marking the beginning of the accusatorial process.

The court could not detect any flaw in the judge's rulings. The various points had been correctly decided and he had exercised his discretion in a manner which was not open to valid criticism.

Solicitors: Garstangs, Bolton; Serious Fraud Office.

**Regina v Brent London Borough Council, Ex parte Omar**  
Before Mr Justice Henry  
[Judgment April 29]

In determining whether an offer of accommodation was an offer of suitable accommodation, which therefore discharged a local authority's duty to a homeless person, the authority should have regard to the individual circumstances of the homeless person and her family.

Mr Justice Henry so held in the Queen's Bench Division in a reserved judgment granting the applicant, Mrs Saida Omar, an order of certiorari quashing the decision of the London Borough of Brent for their offer of accommodation to the applicant under the Housing Act 1985.

Section 69 of the Housing Act 1985, as amended by section 14(3) of the Housing and Planning Act 1986, provides: "(1) A local housing authority may perform any duty under section 65 or 68 (duties to persons found to be homeless) to secure that accommodation becomes available for the occupation of a person - (a) by making available suitable accommodation held by them..."

Mr Terry Gallivan for the applicant; Mr Mark Sutton for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE HENRY said that the words "suitable accommodation" in section 69 had to be assessed having regard to the circumstances of the individual applicant and without regard to any factor personal to the individual applicant.

## Local authority's duty to offer suitable housing

enormous there she had been imprisoned between the ages of four and eight and then again when she was 22.

In prison she had been assaulted and tortured. Her experiences had had a profound influence on her life and she spoke of them with horror.

In 1987 she had come to the United Kingdom and had been granted political asylum. She had applied to the London Borough of Brent for housing and had been accepted as a homeless person with priority need.

The local authority had offered her a flat on the Chalkhill Estate, an estate consisting of 30 concrete blocks of flats largely linked by overhead walkways.

On visiting the flat the applicant was extremely shocked and upset. She said that the estate reminded her of the prisons she had been in in Somalia. She said that she would rather take her own life than live with an ever-present reminder of what had happened to her.

Representations were made to the local authority on her behalf and medical and psychiatric reports were sent to them. However, after reconsidering the offer the local authority held the view that the offer constituted an offer of suitable accommodation.

The word "suitable" had been inserted into section 69 by section 14(3) of the Housing and Planning Act 1986 following the House of Lords' decision in *R v Hillingdon LBC, Ex parte Pugh* (1986) AC 491, in that case Lord Brightman had said that as Parliament had not qualified the word "accommodation" by adjectives such as "appropriate" or "reasonable" no such qualification could be imported by the court.

The amendment to the 1985 Act by the introduction of such a qualifying adjective meant that the obligation on the local authority had necessarily become more onerous.

In context the word "suitable" could only mean suitable as accommodation for persons to whom the duty was owed. The court's submission could not be correct. If it were it would mean that accommodation up to a point of stairs would be regarded as suitable accommodation for a disabled person.

In assessing suitability it seemed inevitable that as well as looking at medical factors, background factors of a social and emotional nature should also be included.

The council had not questioned the medical evidence or the account of the applicant's reaction to the accommodation. In those circumstances it was difficult to see how the council could have found accommodation which triggered such a reaction to be suitable for her.

Solicitors: Ms Kate Markus (Barrister), Brent Community Law Centre, T. V. Edwards & Co, Willesden.

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# West Indies smile serenely through an opening defeat

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ARUNDEL (Duchess's XI won toss): Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI, beat the West Indians by two wickets.

TRUE to the word of their captain, Vivian Richards, the West Indies encountered that rarest of cricketing events, a defeat, in a nice and gentlemanly way yesterday. One sensed, indeed, that there would be no dressing-room inquests, recriminations or lost sleep over the comprehensive loss of their opening game.

Losing by two wickets to a patchwork side comprising six of Derbyshire, a Sussex reserve and four men brought out of retirement might seem an alarming start for the undisputed world champions, but no one here was fooled. This was a gentle stretch of the muscles for a chance to reacquire themselves with the climate and conditions of England without an ounce of pressure. They took it gladly.

There is something of the Harlem Globetrotters about this touring team. Moody figures, they attract crowds to their pre-match training routine and, under the choreography of Dennis Waite, it becomes a cabaret with a serious purpose. Here, the admiring crowd broke into applause as the final exercise ended. The players mingled happily with spectators. It will not always be so chummy.

Richards himself was still spreading goodwill, posing smilingly for amateur photographers, ushering old ladies away from the danger area of fielding practice and, later, patiently signing autographs through the pavilion window. Arundel, of course, was sunnily serene, 9,000 people filling into the castle grounds with their picnic and folding chairs for one of the year's finest rituals. A West Indies official, surveying the scene, remarked wonderingly that the Barbados Test would be pleased with such a crowd.

Over the tannoy came the usual stream of alerts for lost children, one of whom was soon restored to dad, John Lever. The Duchess's perennial opening bowler had not made the smoothest start to the day, having been refused entry to the car park by a steward who declined to believe he was playing, but Lever, despite his 42 years and a past six months in which he has not done so much as run round the block, was as metronomical as ever with the ball; it was three overs before he conceded a run.

The damage to the West Indian tour order, however, was largely the work of Brad Donelan, the off-spinner who cannot yet command a place in the Sussex side. Foisted and confident, he dismissed Greenidge, in his first over,

Lara and Simmons and will make an interesting partner for Ian Salisbury on dry pitches later this season. Simmons did manage 40, including a six off Kim Barnett, before being caught at mid-wicket to bring Richards to the middle five minutes before lunch. He was warmly greeted but responded with only a scratchy 15.

As so often, it was the duty of Gus Logie to sustain the middle-order, his familiar shovel through the air on the side working sweetly. A target of 212 in 50 overs, however, was always within the compass of a side spared the ordeal of facing either Ambrose or Marshall.

There was still Patterson, plus the newcomers Allen and Anthony, but a brisk start was obtained by Barnett and Brian Hardie, whose firm-footed, free-driving style might have been made for a partnership, and the rest was forcefully supervised by John Morris.

A failure in Australia this winter, Morris remains a marvellous striker, and he unfurled his full repertoire on the way to 98 in 97 balls.

There was a tremor when Carl Hooper dismissed Ashrauddin and Butcher with successive balls, but Morris was not to be denied. Only 17 were needed when, to his evident dismay, he holed out to deep extra cover.



Leading light: Andy Moles, the Warwickshire opener, hitting out at Headingley

# All-round effort from Smith secures points

By RICHARD STREETON

HEADINGLEY (Yorkshire won toss): Warwickshire (4pts) beat Yorkshire by two runs.

THIS Refuge Assurance League match yesterday had the tense finish that is so common, but it tended to provide ammunition for those who want less of this type of cricket played. There was no relief from the stereotyped defensive field placements and numerous ill-conceived strokes did nothing to help batting techniques.

On the other hand, an estimated 4,000 crowd on a chilly day brought financial compensation, and they revelled in the late excitement underlining the dilemma facing the administrators discussing the competition's future at Lord's tomorrow.

Yorkshire were set a target of 205 and when Smith began the last over they still required 15 runs. Ten came before Jarvis was run out from the fourth ball as he went for a second run and he hurried his last away disconsolately before he returned to the pavilion. Sidebottom got a single but Hardie was unable to score from the final ball.

Moxon and Marnett had laid an untroubled foundation with 59 from 14 overs before Smith joined the attack. Smith's first ball caused Marnett to lift a high catch to short leg from a top-edged stroke. The run rate slowed when Jarvis bowled with Smith and eventually had Moxon stumped. Blakey and Byas restored some momentum before Smith, having conceded 12 in his first over, had Byas leg before and Robinson held at boundary point.

Yorkshire need 54 from the last eight overs and Blakey and Kellert kept the side in the hunt before Kellert was run out.

Blakey lifted a catch to deep cover and the closing excitement was under way.

Warwickshire earlier owed almost everything to Smith who made a forceful 75 and to Moles as he scored 67 after they were put in on a pale-looking pitch did not all yield consistent bounce.

Jarvis, who was prevented from playing in the championship match by a strained shoulder, struck a telling blow in the first over when he bowled Asif Din and he continued to maintain a lively pace. Sidebottom finds it kindest on his knees and back these days to bowl through unchanged and his cost over cost only 22 runs.

For all his virtues Moles has not always enjoyed the brisk tempo of Sunday cricket. He provided useful balance, though, as first Lloyd, with several jumpy strokes, and later Smith, who made more exactly 91 in 16 overs. Smith drove freely with a full swing of the bat. It bought a reminder that if Smith could find a shade of consistency in both departments, he should not be forgotten as England continue the search for a batsman who can bowl for their one day side.

Smith had one piece of good fortune at 12 when Kellert was unable to hold a difficult chance off Hardie as he ran in from deep extra cover.

Otherwise Smith batted without serious error and a straight six against Carrick was a superb shot. He finally perished in the final over.

# Sussex rewrite the form book

By ALAN LEE

ASKED, last Thursday, which of the new round of championship matches might finish with a day to spare, many cricket followers would have nominated Middlesex against Sussex. Precious few, however, would have had in mind the eventual result, a ten-wicket victory for last season's bottom side over the champions.

On the face of it, this was quite an upset. Middlesex, who lost only once in 1990, and that on a pitch reported as unfit, completed their title run with an innings win over Sussex in September: and finished with

more than twice as many points. Add to this the fact that Sussex's injury list is even longer than Middlesex's and this sounds like a case for the stewards of the Jockey Club. Yet for three days, Sussex were unarguably the better, more resilient side.

Failing to reach 300 in either innings on a blighted pitch, nine wickets falling to Pigott, Middlesex left Sussex to make only 108. David Smith was incapacitated but it was so much their day that it hardly mattered. Peter Moores, the wicketkeeper, scored 86 not out.

The loss of Desmond Haynes has exposed the shallowness of the champions' batting: too

much now depends on Gattling, who failed twice here, and Ramprakash, whose 119 improved his England prospects.

Several others among the games ending today are examples of the four-day product - no deals, no concessions and no deal of speculative declarations. Keen to be denied, Barry Byas in an innings, and Gloucestershire, who have Hampshire's second innings at, effectively, 97 for six, should join Sussex as unexpected winners.

Surrey followed on at the Oval for the first time in 24 years, while Hampshire have countered the one England fast bowler both fit and in prime

form, David Lawrence. He has ten wickets in the game so far.

Essex, runners-up the past two seasons, are showing none of the frailties of Middlesex and will surely score the 73 still required to win at Northampton. At Worcester, with the England hierarchy conspicuously present, only Tom Moody, 70 not out overnight, can prevent an impressive and significant victory for Lancashire.

Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire should join the winners but there will be no early finish at Taunton, where almost 1,000 runs have already been amassed and Somerset will be set around 350.

# Moody is upstaged for once

By IVO TENNANT

THIS week, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) will turn its attention to the Sunday League. What should be done with a competition which, according to the TCCB's own poll, should be drastically curtailed? Try telling that, through, to the crowd that thronged New Road yesterday. Worcestershire may have lost to their familiar adversaries, Lancashire, as they did in the Benson and Hedges Cup final last year, but this was a terrific entertainment.

The match was won through a notable unbeaten innings of 79 off 70 balls by Graham Lloyd, and won by the convincing margin of six wickets. This after

both Botham and Moody had made half-centuries for Worcester. Moody, who reached 309 for seven on a pitch that assisted the spinners. Moody cannot be expected to make a century every Sunday, but such a total was never likely to be enough.

Lloyd put on 118 with Fairbrother, who continues to captain Lancashire in the absence of Hughes. Lloyd's father, Test cricketer, umpire, coach, Stephen took three wickets in six balls to ensure that a partnership of 64 in seven overs between Hussain and Pringle came to nothing.

If Sussex were justly chastised for having beaten Middlesex on Saturday, they were given their come-appearance at Hove, where

Gloucestershire reached 194 for nine, hardly the stuff of wicket makers and, yet, managed to beat Essex by 10 runs. A half-century from Johnson was largely responsible. For Essex, Gooch was in imperious form until brilliantly taken at the wicket by French, once an England colleague. Gooch and Stephenson were out in the space of six balls and there was not sufficient batting in depth. Stephenson took three wickets in six balls to ensure that a partnership of 64 in seven overs between Hussain and Pringle came to nothing.

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SATURDAY'S SCOREBOARDS	
<b>Worcestershire v Lancashire</b> Worcestershire won toss; Lancashire (4pts) beat Worcestershire by six wickets. Lancashire: 1st Innings 289 (80 overs, 44.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Worcestershire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Wicketkeepers: P. Higgs, J. Higgs. Umpires: J. Higgs, J. Higgs.	<b>Gloucestershire v Hampshire</b> Gloucestershire won toss; Hampshire (4pts) beat Gloucestershire by six wickets. Gloucestershire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Hampshire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Wicketkeepers: P. Higgs, J. Higgs. Umpires: J. Higgs, J. Higgs.
<b>Nottinghamshire v Essex</b> Nottinghamshire won toss; Essex (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by six wickets. Nottinghamshire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Essex: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Wicketkeepers: P. Higgs, J. Higgs. Umpires: J. Higgs, J. Higgs.	<b>Surrey v Kent</b> Surrey won toss; Kent (4pts) beat Surrey by six wickets. Surrey: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Kent: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Wicketkeepers: P. Higgs, J. Higgs. Umpires: J. Higgs, J. Higgs.
<b>Warwickshire v Yorkshire</b> Warwickshire won toss; Yorkshire (4pts) beat Warwickshire by six wickets. Warwickshire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Yorkshire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Wicketkeepers: P. Higgs, J. Higgs. Umpires: J. Higgs, J. Higgs.	<b>Derbyshire v Leicestershire</b> Derbyshire won toss; Leicestershire (4pts) beat Derbyshire by six wickets. Derbyshire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Leicestershire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Wicketkeepers: P. Higgs, J. Higgs. Umpires: J. Higgs, J. Higgs.
<b>Gloucestershire v Somerset</b> Gloucestershire won toss; Somerset (4pts) beat Gloucestershire by six wickets. Gloucestershire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Somerset: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Wicketkeepers: P. Higgs, J. Higgs. Umpires: J. Higgs, J. Higgs.	<b>Warwickshire v Gloucestershire</b> Warwickshire won toss; Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Warwickshire by six wickets. Warwickshire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Gloucestershire: 1st Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs); 2nd Innings 147 (40 overs, 22.4 overs). Wicketkeepers: P. Higgs, J. Higgs. Umpires: J. Higgs, J. Higgs.
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# Way clear for South Africa's return in Tokyo

From DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
JOHANNESBURG

THE path is almost clear for South Africa to compete in the world athletics championships this summer. An International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) delegation left here last night satisfied that conditions for South Africa's return to world competition would be fulfilled in time.

South Africa was expelled from the IAAF in 1976 and the biggest obstacle to the offer of readmission, the formation of a united controlling body, has been removed by the setting up of the South African Amateur Athletic Association (SAAAA). Today, Primo

Nebiolo, the IAAF president, will seek to break down resistance within the SAAAA to a Tokyo return by offering to fund a new training facility in the troubled township of Soweto.

Of the three bodies which came together to form the SAAAA two, the South African Amateur Athletics Board (SAAAB) and the South African Amateur Athletic Congress (SAAACON), remain opposed to participation in Tokyo. However, the third, the South African Amateur Athletic Union (SAAAU), is in favour.

The SAAAU conceded ground over the weekend, knowing that the IAAF was on its side, and even went so far as to agree to the SAAAB

president, Harry Hendricks, becoming the first chairman of the new body. But when Hendricks announced yesterday that "we must participate in Africa before we go outside", there were groans from IAAF members along the table.

SAAAB and SAAACON representatives argue that South Africa should wait until the SAAAA development programme has begun to give athletes from areas where there are no facilities or coaching an equal chance to compete with the hitherto privileged athletes for international places. However, the IAAF offer of a training centre, likely to be worth between £500,000 and £1 million, in Soweto, is just the sort

of facility SAAAB and SAAACON have been campaigning for.

It seems certain that the IAAF will not hurry itself to provide the centre if South Africa waits until after Tokyo, perhaps for the African Games one month later or even until next year. If facilities are what Hendricks and his supporters want, dare they delay, or even risk losing the chance of the first all-weather track in Soweto which, with a population of two million, is South Africa's biggest township?

Clearly suggesting that South Africa would be expected in Tokyo if it accepted the IAAF's offer of readmission, Hassan Agabani, of Sudan, one of the three IAAF

delegates here said: "Being a member of a family, you just do not take. You participate by competing in international competitions. We expect the South African athletes to contribute to the major championships of the IAAF."

Another of the IAAF party said: "South Africa would have certain obligations. The world championships are for people of all the world. The purpose of each member is to take part in the competitions."

The IAAF had two conditions for South Africa's readmission: that the apartheid laws are abolished in June, as President F.W. de Klerk has said they will be, and that a unified non-racial governing body be formed for athletics. Unified in name the

SAAAA may be, but in thought there is a mighty long way to go. "I don't know if I can trust all our partners," Danie Malan, of the SAAAAU, said.

If unity of thought is achieved in favour of Tokyo participation, no certain decision about South Africa's inclusion could be given until the IAAF Congress four days before the championships begin on August 24.

The last South African to compete internationally for his country was the 1500 metres runner, a different Danie Malan, when he set a national record of 3min 35.96sec in Zurich a fortnight before South Africa's expulsion. Zola Pieterse (née Budd) sat in on the conference as an

interested party: she is back to the world class she was four years ago, when she competed for Britain, and she confirmed she would like to compete in Tokyo as a member of the South African team.

However, she will not be competing in Sheffield at the World Student Games in July. Sam Ramsamy, the chairman of the Interim National Olympic Committee of South Africa, said yesterday that the body, the South African Technicians Athletic Association, which had applied to send 12 athletes, including Pieterse, to Sheffield did not have the status to do so. "They had no business applying," Ramsamy said.

Christie's acid test, page 36



Pieterse: interested party

## Pleat expected to return to Luton Town as manager

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Pleat is expected to return to Luton Town Football Club as its manager. Although officials declined yesterday either to confirm or deny the speculation, it is thought that he will soon officially be invited to take over from Jim Ryan. If he accepts, it will be like the good old days at Kenilworth Road next season.

The club, which avoided relegation to the second division by beating Derby County on Saturday, is to lift the ban on away supporters and to dispense with its artificial pitch. The appointment of Pleat, who was the manager there from 1978 to 1986, would complete the return to the past.

"I cannot comment on these reports," Peter Nelkin, the chairman, said yesterday. "We've all been working hard to try to stay in the first division and, now that we've done it, we are enjoying ourselves. It is a pity that stories like this sour a week of celebrations."

Ryan, who was also celebrating his 46th birthday yesterday, was surprised to hear rumours about his potential fate and stressed that he would be unable to work with or under Pleat. "I think that that would be an impossible

situation for the both of us," he said.

Pleat, who was dismissed by Leicester City earlier this season, denied that discussions had already taken place. "I'm flattered if it is true that Luton want me to go back but, at this stage, it would be unwise and unfair to say anything while Jim Ryan is still in the manager's position," he said.

"Nothing surprises you in football, and I'm well-aware that the musical chairs are about to start again and that this summer there will be several jobs available. That is



Pleat: former manager

the game." He himself chose to leave Luton five years ago to take charge of Tottenham Hotspur.

He was primarily responsible for Luton's greatest success. Four years after taking over from Harry Haslam, he guided them to the second division title, their highest League honour. Although they stayed up the following season only by winning at Manchester City on the closing day, his immediate successors benefited from the attractive side he left behind.

Under John Moore in 1987, Luton finished seventh, the highest position in their history. Under Ray Harford, who was forced because of injuries to recall several of Pleat's players he had dropped, they won the Littlewoods Cup, their one and only trophy, in 1988 and reached the final a year later.

Although they also reached the final of the Simod Cup in 1988, Harford's tenure was marked by narrow escapes in the League. The pattern continued under Ryan, who was appointed 16 months ago. For the third successive season, their first division survival has been in doubt until the final day.

Luton escape, page 35

## Chelsea await Francis

GERRY Francis, the manager of Bristol Rovers since July 1987, will be a leading candidate for the vacancy at Chelsea caused by the "retirement" of Bobby Campbell to become the personal assistant to Ken Bates, the club's chairman (Dennis Signy writes).

It is expected that Francis will announce today that he is leaving Rovers at the end of his contract next month. Francis, aged 39, a former England captain, has also been linked

with the manager's chairs at Queen's Park Rangers, the club where he first made his name as a player, and Aston Villa.

Francis plans to talk to Bristol Rovers directors before making an announcement about his future. There is speculation that Dave Sexton, the former England Under-21, QPR, Manchester United and Coventry City manager, will link with Francis.

## Arsenal's tour of victory

ARSENAL rounded off their championship celebrations by parading the trophy in front of almost a quarter of a million people in Islington yesterday with George Graham reiterating his desire for success in Europe next season.

"Right from Herbert Chapman's time in the 1930s Arsenal have had a proud name in Europe," the manager said. "The club is known worldwide as one of the great sides and I'm delighted to be able to lead Arsenal into Europe and to challenge for the European Cup."

"Europe is our top priority. We will be meeting the most famous players in the world and I'm looking forward to it - I'd love to win the European Cup."

Speaking the day after his side had completed their programme with a 6-1 defeat of Coventry, Graham went on: "There are four trophies now for us to go for next season, the European Cup, the League championship, the FA Cup and the Rumbelows Cup. I will be happy with any one of them, I'm not greedy."

Arsenal celebrate, page 35



Eyes down: Krikken, the Derbyshire wicketkeeper, cannot watch as Lara, the West Indian batsman, is bowled by Douelan for the Duchess of Norfolk's XI in the traditional tour opener at Arundel yesterday. Report, page 38

## Senna triumphs yet again

From NORMAN HOWELL  
IN MONTE CARLO

AYRTON Senna, driving a McLaren, yesterday won his fourth consecutive Formula One grand prix since the start of the season, breaking the record set by Juan Manuel Fangio in 1954. The Brazilian world champion led the Monaco race throughout all 78 laps.

The other great excitement came from Nigel Mansell. The Briton, in a Williams, had failed to finish the previous three races this season; yesterday, however, he not only lasted the distance but finished a strong second, setting a string of fast laps and sensationally overtaking Alain Prost on the 62nd of them.

Jean Alesi, of France, finished third after driving an uncharacteristically conservative race, while his Ferrari team-mate, Prost, came fifth, having lost time during an unscheduled tyre stop. Between them was Roberto Moreno's Benetton.

The manner in which Mansell took Prost was spectacular: he pushed his car as fast as he could in the tunnel, where in practice his

Renault V10 had reached speeds of 270kph, and then used his momentum to surge past Prost, braking at the very last moment. Such a manoeuvre takes courage, heaps of it, and that is a quality that Mansell's critics in the pit and paddock had started to question. Mansell answered them in the most direct and dignified manner.

"I came out of the tunnel and I was committed. I thought that if he came over to close me we'd both be goners," Mansell said. "Luckily, he let me through. But I was determined, I can tell you."

Mansell was clearly ecstatic to be back on the podium, his first time in Monaco, and his humour resurfaced: "I think it's brilliant that Ayrtton has won four in row. Wish I had his car..."

Mansell said that he stalled twice at the Rascasse, the first gear corner, and that he had to jump-start his car using the clutch, which is presumably not quite how a semi-automatic gear box is meant to work.

As usual in Monaco, the race was full of incidents, and

many drivers had to take a walk round the principality to get back to their garages. The most spectacular exits were those of Stefano Modena and Riccardo Patrese.

Modena, who had started alongside Senna in the grid, had been holding on to second place when, on the 43rd lap, after being held up by backmarkers, he found Patrese in the Williams, breathing down his neck. The effort was too much for Modena's Honda engine: it blew up just after the tunnel and the oil it shed took Patrese by surprise. He hit Modena and he, too, was out of the race.

Now that Mansell has managed to rediscover his form, the Williams-Renault team can start to consider a serious challenge to the McLaren-Hondas - or at least capitalise on their rivals' errors - now that they have also found reliability on this toughest of circuits, where drivers must change gear 3,000 times.

The Williams semi-automatic gear box has survived this kind of test, despite the hiccup at Rascasse. That bodes well for the rest of the season.

OTHER RESULTS: Senna, 40sec; 2. Prost, 11.3; 3. Alesi, 12.4; 4. Moreno, 13.5; 5. Patrese, 14.6; 6. Berger, 15.7; 7. Alboreto, 16.8; 8. Mansell, 17.9; 9. Piquet, 19.0; 10. Villeneuve, 20.1; 11. Badoer, 21.2; 12. Agnelli, 22.3; 13. De Cesaris, 23.4; 14. Jordan, 24.5; 15. Rosset, 25.6; 16. Piccini, 26.7; 17. Nannini, 27.8; 18. Piquet, 28.9; 19. Benetton, 30.0; 20. Ferrari, 31.1.

WORLD DRIVERS CHAMPIONSHIP (after four rounds): 1. Senna, 40pts; 2. Prost, 11.3; 3. Alesi, 12.4; 4. Moreno, 13.5; 5. Patrese, 14.6; 6. Berger, 15.7; 7. Alboreto, 16.8; 8. Mansell, 17.9; 9. Piquet, 19.0; 10. Villeneuve, 20.1; 11. Badoer, 21.2; 12. Agnelli, 22.3; 13. De Cesaris, 23.4; 14. Jordan, 24.5; 15. Rosset, 25.6; 16. Piccini, 26.7; 17. Nannini, 27.8; 18. Piquet, 28.9; 19. Benetton, 30.0; 20. Ferrari, 31.1.

WORLD CONSTRUCTORS CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. McLaren, 50pts; 2. Ferrari, 16; 3. Williams, 12.4; 4. Benetton, 9; 5. equal, Modena and McLaren, 5; 6. equal, Senna and Mansell, 2; 7. equal, Agnelli and Lotus, 3; 8. Lola, 1.

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## Monarchs dispel marauding Knights

New York-New Jersey... 7  
London Monarchs..... 22

From RICHARD WETHERELL  
IN NEW YORK

LONDON Monarchs made sure of a place in the World League of American Football play-offs with their toughest battle of the season - and had their defense to thank for their win at the Giants Stadium.

Not only did the Monarchs batter Jeff Graham, the New York-New Jersey Knights

quarterback, to distraction, sacking him a ludicrous 14 times, but they scored 13 points in the final two minutes. The Monarchs' record is now 8-0.

After Eric Wilkerson had scored his ninth touchdown of the season for the Knights, to leave them trailing 9-7 with five minutes and 48 seconds left, it was a nerve-jangling finale. The 41,219 crowd was as hostile and partisan as only a New York crowd can be.

John Witkowski, the Monarchs' replacement

quarterback, threw his second interception of the fourth quarter and the momentum seemed to be with the home side.

The Monarchs' defense thought otherwise. Dedrick Dodge intercepted and ran in from 32 yards and on the final play of the game Graham was sacked once more. Danny Lockett recovering the fumble and nonchalantly running 65 yards for another touchdown.

In a game so dominated by defense that it appeared for most of the time that the

offenses were going backwards rather than forwards, Jeff Alexander excelled. The running back became the first Monarch to run for more than 100 yards in a game, finishing with 128, and scored his fifth touchdown, from 41 yards, in three matches. After a slow start to the season, he has justified the faith of Larry Kennan, the head coach.

SCORERS: London Monarchs: Touchdowns: J. Alexander, Dodge, Lockett; Conversion: P. Alexander; Field Goal: P. Alexander. New York-New Jersey Knights: Touchdown: Wilkerson; Conversion: T. Taylor.

## China stages recovery

COPENHAGEN - Three of the five all-England champions were beaten on Saturday, while China made a remarkable recovery by producing both singles champions yesterday in the world badminton championships here (Richard Eaton writes).

Korea again established itself as the outstanding nation, with three titles.

Susi Susanti was beaten for the loss of five points by Tang Jiahong, and the tall Chinese player went on to overcome Susanti's Indo-

nesian compatriot, Sarwendah Kusumawardhani, the World Cup winner, for the loss of just seven points.

Ardy Wiranata was beaten by Zhao Jianhua, of China, and the acrobatic left-hander survived a tight first game to win the final 18-13, 15-4 against another Indonesian, Allan B. Kusuma.

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